

Lifelong friends had no chance as rock overhang collapsed on them at campsite

Survivor tells how scout leaders were crushed to death

By DANIEL McGRORY

A SCOUT leader told last night how he survived a rock fall that killed two friends just an arm's length away. The victims did not even have time to cry out as they were crushed by the collapse of an overhanging sandstone ledge, possibly weakened by the heat from their campfire.

Marcus Hill, 25, survived because he was sitting with his back right against the rock face. He was pinned there as the 10 tonnes of rock crashed down on his friends. He said: "They didn't see it coming and didn't have a chance to do anything."

Mr Hill pulled at boulders piled high to try to reach the men. The victims, Stuart Perkins, 20, and David Weaver, 21, were childhood friends whom he first met after joining the same scout troop as schoolboys. A new generation of a dozen young-scouts from the Kidderminster 11th Scout Group had been playing at the scene of the rock fall only hours earlier, at their regular annual campsite near Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire.

The boys, aged 12 to 15, had left to go to their tents in an adjoining field. Mr Hill went to share a late-night beer with his friends. None of them had regarded the 15ft overhang as dangerous, he said.

Still visibly distressed, and wearing his muddled and torn Scout uniform, Mr Hill recalled how his companions had already taken the most comfortable places near the fire, so he sat opposite them with his back against the rock face.

"We were talking about television, cars and life in general," he said. "It was very sudden. The rocks just fell in. We didn't see it or hear it coming at all. There was no warning. There was no way out whatsoever."

After crawling over the rocks and calling out for his friends, he ran half a mile to a telephone box. With police, he



The victims: David Weaver, above, and Stuart Perkins



night. The boys were not told of the deaths until morning. Many were in tears as they returned to the farm with their parents to collect their belongings. Mr Hill's girlfriend, Sandra Oliver, was among the other leaders.

The troop was on its first outing of the year. Mr Hill, a technician with Malvern Hills District Council, said: "The Scouts had been very close to where the rocks came down. On a weekend camp we would always have a camp fire on the last night. We played a few games, told a few ghost stories and a few jokes. It was a traditional scouts evening."

Scout leaders stressed that none of the team had behaved carelessly. There were rings of stones at the spot so that Scout groups could build their camp fires safely and all three had special training and extensive experience of camping. Gareth Roberts, Hereford and Worcester scouting field commissioner, said: "This particular group had camped there for many years. There is no indication that this site was unsafe."

"This is a good Scout group with a good scouting team and they need to be praised for that. I would have no hesitation in letting them go out with a Scout group anywhere in the country."

John Fogg of the Scouting Association said: "One theory is that the fire may have dried out the water in the sandstone. There was a frost that night, but in truth we will probably never know for sure what went wrong. These lads were had come through the ranks as Venture Scouts and were among our brightest and most conscientious leaders."

Martin Packler, Group Scout Leader, said: "The two young lads who died were dedicated Scouts. They had come up from the cubes and they lived and breathed scouting. They just loved it."

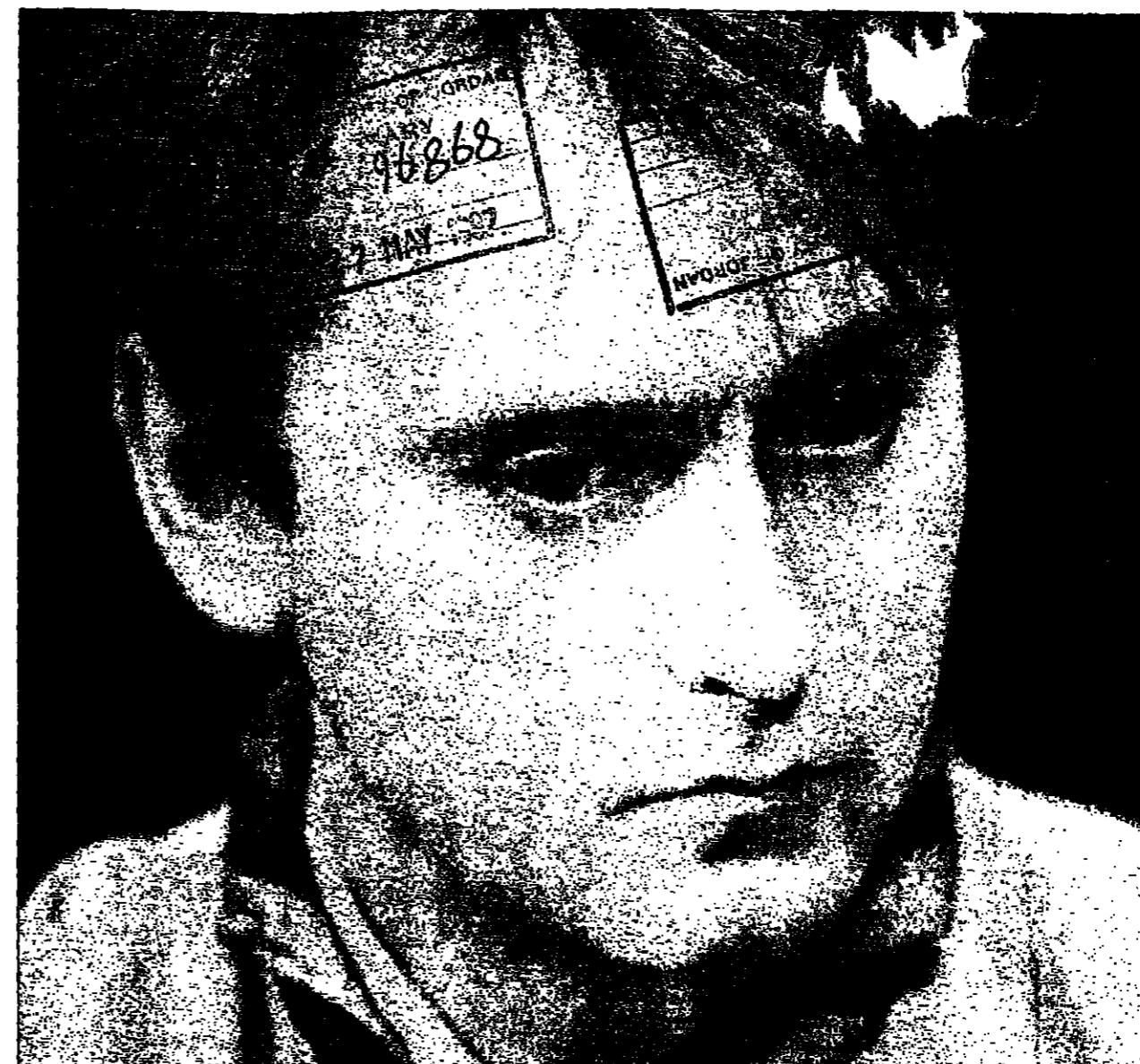
The Scout group had arrived on Friday. Members have been staying at Cider Hill farm for over a decade, always building their camp fires under the ledge to avoid damaging the farmer's field.

Mr Weaver was a second-year marketing student at Southampton University and a skilled mountaineer. His mother, Margaret, had been a cub scout leader. His brother Paul said: "These two had grown up together through the Scouts."

"David had often taken groups out on camp before and this is traditionally the first outing of the year. I've been to that spot myself and it's a great little place. There are rings of stones by the ridge for camp fires and that is where leaders always build their fire. It was just the wrong night and they were in the wrong place."

Mr Weaver's parents, Keith and Margaret, went to a communion service yesterday. They said: "We are just devastated."

Mr Perkins worked at a



The survivor, Marcus Hill, after yesterday's tragedy. Below, the scene of the collapse where he tried to dig his friends out from under the rocks. He said: "They didn't see it coming and didn't have a chance to do anything"



Divers airlifted to hospital with bends

THREE amateur divers were recovering from the bends at a special medical unit in Belgium last night after a diving accident in the Channel (Daren Gregorian writes).

The trio, all members of a diving club in Folkestone, Kent, were surfacing from a dive on a deep wreck near the Varne Light vessel, six miles off Dover, when one of the men lost his face mask and demand valve. He was forced to make a rapid ascent, losing several minutes of decompression time, and when he reached the surface was unconscious. His two companions spotted him going up and also surfaced too quickly.

A spokesman for the Dover

coastguard, which co-ordinated the rescue, said: "One was unconscious when brought to the surface. The other two were conscious but needed specialist treatment."

They were suffering from compressed-air sickness, in which air or gases breathed under pressure are dissolved in the bloodstream and turn into bubbles of nitrogen.

The divers, whose names were not immediately released, would normally have been taken to a decompression chamber at Portsmouth, but forced the RAF Sea King helicopter which airlifted them from the diving vessel to fly to a military hospital in the Belgian port of Ostend.

Mr Perkins worked at a

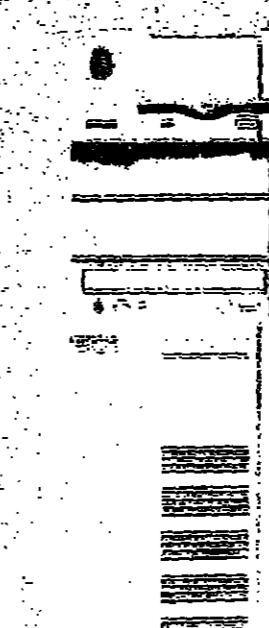
bathroom fitting firm, and lived only 100 yards from the troop's scout hut with his parents. His father, Michael, said: "This has not sunk in yet. Stuart had been on camps before so he was very experienced. He had been to that site before. He started off a cub and followed it right through. It was the main interest in his life apart from tinkering with his car."

□ A boy aged eight walking on Beach at Lyme Regis, Dorset, suffered head and back injuries when a 200lb rock fell from a cliff. James Marwick was airlifted to hospital by helicopter.

□ A lost and inexperienced climber walked to safety off the hillside after a night stranded on Ben Nevis, in the Cairngorms. Hazel Gray, 47, from Edinburgh, ignored flares from a rescue team because she didn't know what they were.

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Belgian stalks streets of Nottingham in hunt for father of wartime baby

By ROBIN YOUNG

FRANK SHAW of Nottingham, ex-serviceman with a past, is warned. Gaby from Brussels is stalking the streets of your home town looking for you and she has brought along the daughter she says you fathered 51 years ago.

Gaby, 77, a married Bruxelloise, refuses to disclose her surname because she says her Belgian husband has no idea about the quest on which she and her daughter, Josette, 51, are engaged. Their mission is to find Gaby's former lover, Frank Shaw, a man she last saw in the final days of the war, 52 years ago.

Gaby, speaking from the hotel in Nottingham where she has set up her search headquarters, explained yesterday that she had set out on the hunt because her daughter was intent on meeting her unknown father.

What they know of Mr Shaw is quickly summarised. Gaby was 24 when she met and fell in love with him in 1945 in Brussels, when he was, she thinks, serving as batman to a captain in a regiment which could have been the Sherwood Foresters, stationed in Ixelles, a



Desperately seeking Frank: Gaby, as she was in wartime Brussels and in Nottingham yesterday

suburb of Brussels. Speaking through Bruno Vauthier, her interpreter, Gaby said yesterday: "I want to find Frank for the sake of my daughter who is desperate to meet her father, but I must be discreet."

Gaby said Mr Shaw had

said he wanted to marry her, but balked when her family told him that Belgian tradition demanded that he would have to remain in Belgium with his bride and live with his mother-in-law. He refused and returned to England. Gaby's mother died only four months later, but then the couple had severed their connections. A year later and with a year-old baby to look after, Gaby found she was unable to get by alone

and married a Belgian, with whom she still lives in Brussels. M. Vauthier added: "Gaby did try to contact Frank some years ago through an advertisement. She fears that he may have tried to find her but discovered she had a husband and decided not to pursue it."

"Her sincere hope is that her visit will end in a reunion with the love she lost over 50 years ago."

Gaby said from her Nottingham hotel room: "I am just going to walk around the streets hopefully until I meet Frank. After all this time I am very nervous about it."

She said she had contacted the British Army but had not received much help because she could not be sure of Mr Shaw's old regiment. She also said she had telephoned every F. Shaw she could find listed in the telephone directory without result, and that her advertisement in local newspapers had drawn a blank.

She has now enlisted the aid of the assistance of the press, which can often bring quick results in such cases. So come in, Frank Shaw. Let us at least hope for John Major's sake, that you are not a local Conservative Party chairman.

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Teenager sees two friends killed by train

By STEWART TENOLE

TWO boys were killed by a passenger train at the weekend. The accident was seen by a friend who went for help to houses near by and led police officers to the scene.

The dead boys, aged 13 and 15, were hit on Sunday by a train travelling at 70 mph. Police were already on their way to Osmondthorpe, Leeds, after reports that children were throwing stones at cars from a bridge over the main Leeds to Selby road.

The train, travelling from Middlesbrough towards Leeds, came round a long bend on an embankment and the driver caught the youths in his lights but could not stop.

The 15-year-old died instantly. The second boy had severe head injuries and died at St James's Hospital in Leeds. Their friend was yesterday at home with his family, still too shaken to talk to police.

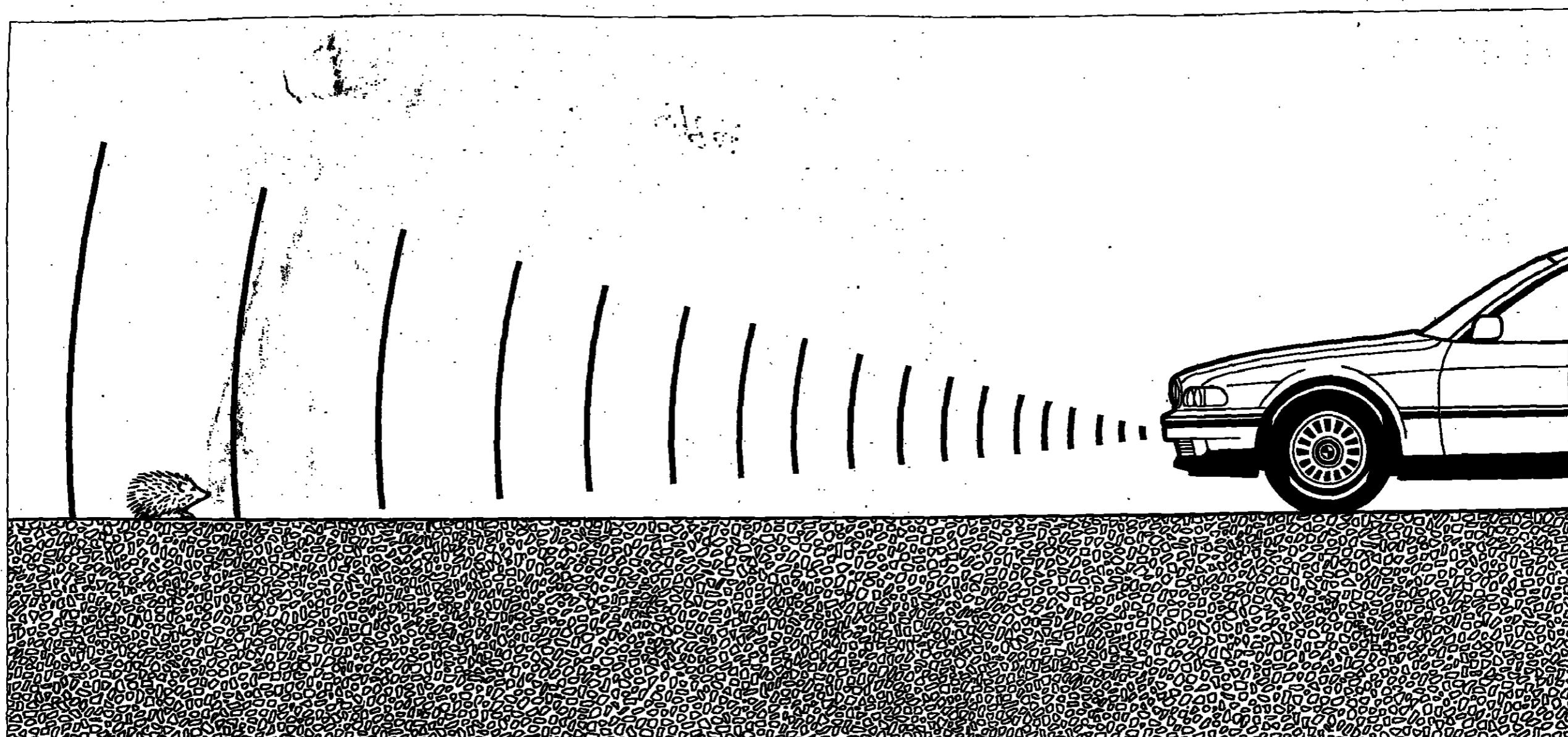
Inspector Daniel Sneed of the British Transport Police, said the train driver, who was also in shock, would have had only a couple of seconds to see the boys and had no chance of avoiding them. The lines in both directions were closed for several hours.

Mary Cheetham, who lives a few yards from the line, was alerted to the tragedy by the boy who escaped. She said: "There was a knock at the door and this young lad was there dressed in jeans, jumper and woolly hat."

"He was very upset and close to tears. All he said was his friends had been hit by a train. We called for an ambulance and he went outside to wait for the police."

Residents said children regularly crossed the line in their blazers and bags as a short cut. The track is fenced but police said that it was often breached by children climbing a five-bar gate.

A spokeswoman for Railtrack said: "Sadly, these boys seem to have been trespassing. It tends to happen predominantly in urban areas like this. We have tried to address the issues, but the sad fact is however good the fencing is we will up, people will get on the line."



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Compulsory purchase saves former abbey which endured Henry VIII, tidal erosion - and pig farming

£1 sale of house that survived history's treacherous sands

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the finest Elizabethan houses in Wales was sold for £1 at the weekend. Rather larger is the £250,000 tag for moving a nearby pig-breeding unit which had rendered the house unsaleable.

Sker House in south Glamorgan stands alone among the sand dunes, a field away from the sea. But beneath is a foundation of solid rock which has enabled the house, which is of timber origin, to survive while the nearby town of Kenfig was buried long ago beneath the sand.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the abbey was sold to the Turberville family, who added a great hall with a frieze of bird-headed men firing arrows at Welsh dragons. The Turbervilles were Roman Catholics, and in the 16th and early 17th centuries, several were fined and imprisoned

simply bequeathed the vast impractical pile to his manservant.

In 1977, Sker, by now a blackened wreck, was declared unsafe, and tenant farmers moved to a house nearby. Also for Sker, a pig-breeding unit was built less than 100 yards away.

For the past seven years, the Buildings at Risk Trust, aided by Ogwr council, and later by Bridgend council, has battled to save Sker. Meanwhile, the owner hived off the house with just 3 ft of land around it into a £100 property company to avoid paying for repairs.

This weekend, the council resolved to activate a compulsory purchase order, which had been due to expire in 24 hours, enabling the Buildings at Risk Trust to acquire the freehold of the house and six acres. The lottery fund has

for recusancy. One confessed to involvement in Titus Cates's Popish Plot of 1678, and a Jesuit priest was found in the house.

The Turbervilles were forced to sell and the new owners left tenant farmers to run the place. In 1766, John Curte



HUW EVANS

Sker House, near Bridgend, which stands among sand dunes and belonged to the Turberville family after the Dissolution of the Monasteries

offered £413,000 towards repairs, in addition to £250,000 promised by Cadw (the Welsh equivalent of English Heritage) for removal and reconstruction of the farm buildings.

Ian Benrose, the trust's sec-

retary, said: "This is the most significant use of the compulsory purchase procedure for a historic building in Wales."

Mike Davies, the architect who will supervise the repairs, added: "We will give the house

a stone tile roof as it would have had in the 16th century. We will also lime-wash the rubble stone walls to protect them from the weather. We have found traces of blues, reds, whites and yellows and

can take our pick from these colours. In the great hall on the first floor we have found 18th century graffiti which will be preserved."

Tom Lloyd, the trust chairman, added: "The best use

would be for Sker to become a private house but it will have to be open at least 28 days a year. An alternative might be a restaurant; two of the finest golf links in Wales are nearby."



Deborah Thomas' body found by firefighters

Poet found battered to death after house blaze

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN AMATEUR poet was found beaten to death in the attic bedroom she used for readings. The body of Deborah Thomas, 37, was discovered after firefighters were called to a blaze at her home in Brighton early on Sunday.

Miss Thomas had earlier left a nightclub with a pony-tailed man in his 20s. Her children, Douglas, 10, and Matilda, 5, had been staying with their father.

Friends mourned the death of the poet known as "Debo". Polly Marshall, of the spoken word club Do Tongues, said: "She had some wonderful material and performed regularly. She was well known in poetry circles locally."

Police were yesterday awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination. Detective Inspector Malcolm Bacon said it had been a brutal attack on a popular woman. "I have not heard of anybody with a bad word to say about her. She seems to have been a caring and emotional person."

Confused whale dies on mudflats

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SIGHTSEERS wept yesterday as "Moby" the lost whale died on mudflats after more than two weeks trapped in the shallow waters of the Forth. The 40ft male had resisted all attempts to make it realise that it was swimming in the wrong direction.

The sperm whale emerged yesterday morning at Airth, more than ten miles inland, after days without a sighting. Exhausted and starving, almost its entire bulk lay exposed on the mud by the receding tide by 10am. Only the occasional sweep of the tail indicated it was still alive.

Local children raced to the scene on their bikes as word spread through the village. By 11.30, the whale was in obvious distress and gasping for breath. It began opening and shutting its mouth and made a final effort to heave itself back into the water.

Spectators watched from just feet away as the blow whale sank below mud and the animal's internal organs were crushed by its bulk. It gave a groan and stopped moving at about noon.

One little girl tugged at her father's sleeve and said: "Daddy, do something, push

Fake gun gives bus bandit a real fright

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A LATTER-DAY highwayman met his match when he tried to hold up a bus on a council estate notorious for late-night violence. When he demanded the takings, the driver pulled out a revolver and fired three deafening shots. The robber staggered backwards, hit his head and knocked himself out.

The pistol was a replica and the .22 rounds were blanks but the 17-year-old robber did not know that. Bus driver Robert Amos, 44, jumped out from behind the wheel and called the emergency services. The youth was taken from the Racecourse estate, in Sale, near Manchester, to hospital for treatment to cuts and bruises and leisurely contemplation of another career.

Police have questioned Mr Amos and he has been bailed to appear at a police station at a later date. Opinion on the estate, where shopkeeper Ian Marshall, 48, was murdered last month by a raider, is divided over Mr Amos's exploit late on Saturday.

Mike Gardner, chairman of the Sale West Tenants' Association, said: "I cannot believe this bus driver was armed. It was an incredibly stupid thing to do." Freda Boyle, 64, a resident, said Mr Amos may have been "out of order" but he did what many of the "young devils" who hang about the estate at night deserve.

Police have arrested one man and are seeking four more after a German family were attacked in Nottingham yesterday. The men, white and aged 25-30, attacked the family's car, which had German plates, at traffic lights.

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TIMES 24/3

Commissioners' decision to sell property and buy shares restores assets to record level of £3 billion

Church recovers fortune lost in 80s market crash



Colman: changed investment strategy

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England's assets have soared to a record £3 billion after the Church Commissioners recovered all the losses made from property speculation in the 1980s.

The Church's assets are now at a record high level after a year in which they have outperformed expectations. Michael Alison, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, who, as MP for Selby, has been the vital link between Church and State in Parliament and who is stepping down at the election, said the recovery had been achieved by selling assets such as the MetroCentre in Newcastle, and re-investing in stocks and shares. The

Church's high concentration in property investments in the 1980s made it vulnerable to the property crash, and it lost £800 million.

The 1996 results, to be released at the end of next month, show the assets to be nearly £300 million higher than the 1995 figure of £2.7 billion, while income has remained steady at about £145 million. Even at the peak of the property market in 1989, just before the disastrous crash in asset values brought on a financial crisis, the Church's assets stood at £2.9 billion, less than they are today.

The total return on assets is well ahead of independent benchmarks used in the financial markets. In 1996 a 17 per cent return was achieved on assets, compared with the benchmark figure of 11 per cent.

The Stock Exchange portfolio performance was in the top 1 per cent of pension funds in the WM All Funds index, at 17.4 per cent. The property return of 18 per cent was also better than the benchmark.

Mr Alison gave warning that there could be no easing up on donations from congregations because the Church was committed to paying pensions to retired clergy.

The Church is anxious to make parishes and dioceses as self-supporting as possible, paying as much towards clergy pensions and stipends as they can afford, so that the commissioners' income can be used for mission and aid to the most needy and in the poorest parishes.

Mr Alison, who has held his post for ten years, said: "Looking at the

background to what happened to our investments, we started with one hand tied behind our back. We inherited a lot of agricultural land, nearly all farm tenancies with controlled rents and almost unsaleable because of security of tenure.

"It is not surprising that attempts were made to find other forms of property holdings like commercial or business property where there was no rent control." This left the Church over-exposed to the crash in the property market. But Mr Alison said: "We did not have huge holdings in the equity market at that time. So when the equity market collapsed in 1987 the Church Commissioners were singularly unaffected. But no one said a word."

The recovery has been made

under the helmsmanship of Sir Michael Colman, First Church Estates Commissioner, who engineered the change in investment strategy after his appointment in 1993.

Mr Alison, who last year was asked 53 questions in Parliament, said that much of the increased interest in church affairs related to finances, clergy pensions and to proposed reforms in management drawn up by a commission set up under the Bishop of Durham and currently going through the General Synod.

Next year, Parliament will be asked to approve a synodical measure to bring the reforms into being. The number of commissioners will be cut and a large proportion of the income earned from the commis-

sioners' assets handed over to a new Archbishops' Council, a cabinet-style central body.

Parliament recently approved a measure allowing the Church to set up its own pension fund, at a time when retired clergy are outnumbering serving clergy for the first time in the church's history.

Mr Alison, who attends Holy Trinity, Brompton, in Knightsbridge, said: "The Church Commission has shown itself to be extraordinarily adaptable in its capacity to look into the future. I am very sorry to be leaving when the ship is sailing full tilt into uncharted waters."

The current favourite to replace Mr Alison as Second Church Estates Commissioner is Stuart Randal, Labour MP for Hull West.

Priest among three arrested in jet plant

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A PRIEST and three parishioners were arrested with four refugees from East Timor yesterday during a protest against the sale of aircraft to Indonesia.

They formed a human step-ladder to climb the perimeter fence of the British Aerospace factory at Warton, Lancashire, at 5.30am. Father Arthur Fitzgerald, of St Michael's Church, Liverpool, then held an Easter liturgy inside the site, which produces Hawk jets for export to Indonesia.

The protesters read from the Bible, scattered poppy seeds and unfurled banners, then gave each BAE security worker an Easter egg. The other protesters were Ermengildo Lopes, Moises da Costa, Amorim Vieira and Acacio Marques from East Timor, and Lizzie Jones, James Cookson and Julie Curran.

The protest began a day of peaceful action, described as a "prayer blockade", at the aircraft plant. At Liverpool Crown Court last year four women were acquitted by a jury of causing criminal damage to a Hawk jet on the site.

Ex-bishop calls for 'homosexual ethic'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A RETIRED bishop has appealed for an "authentic Christian homosexual ethic" that will allow gay priests to be treated with equality in the Church of England.

John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury from 1982 to 1993, has effectively rejected the compromise on homosexuality reached when he chaired the House of Bishops, which issued the document *Issues in Human Sexuality* in 1991.

The Church was widely criticised at the time for telling vicars to abstain from homosexual sex while accepting that lay people could have relationships with people of the same sex, provided these were faithful and permanent in intention.

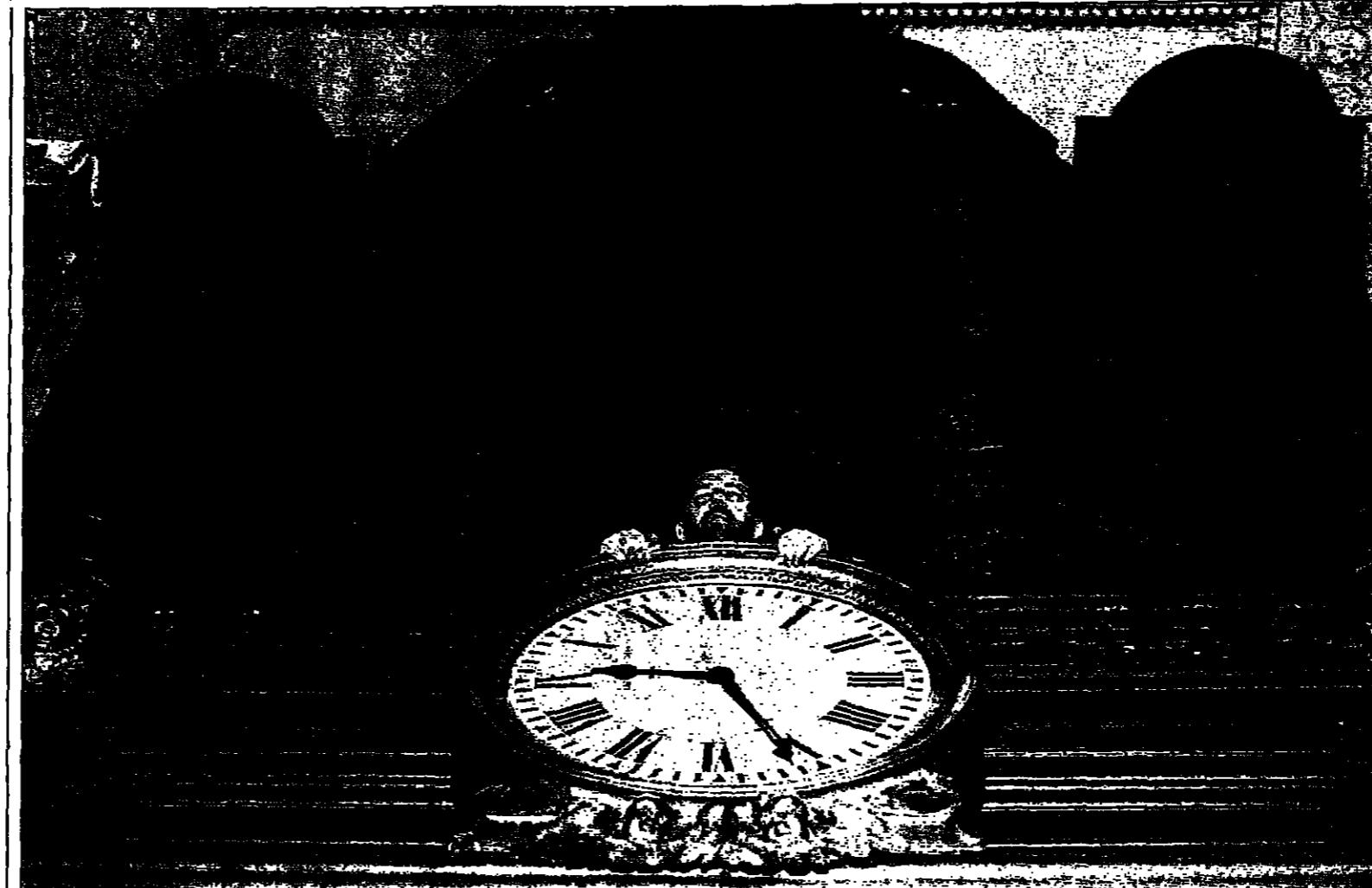
Dr Baker said he would

attempt "to move the church logjam" in a lecture at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, later this month.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, has indicated his reluctance to reopen the gay debate, telling the Easter *Radio Times*: "As a Church we must make it very clear that homosexuality itself is not a major issue."

Dr Baker said: "The present position is not satisfactory. There is a basic flaw in the idea that homosexual practice is all right for lay people but not all right for the clergy."

Dr Baker was an outspoken liberal bishop. A vegetarian, he allowed animals to be blessed in his cathedral and let a vet read a lesson with a white rat on each shoulder.



The giant organ at the historic Christ Church in Spitalfields. Below, William Drake examines the workings ready for restoration

Musical treasure reveals its secrets are safe and sound

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MUSICAL treasure has been found to be more complete than anyone realised. The 1735 church organ at Spitalfields, London, was once said to be the largest in England, but was feared to be unplayable after standing for years in a near-derelict site.

Now tests for restoration work have discovered that the action, mechanism and pipework are still the original work of Richard Bridge, who was the leading organ builder of his day and a favourite of Handel.

The organ is in Christ Church, the 1714 architectural masterpiece of Nicholas Hawksmoor. The church fell on hard times this century. It was closed for 30 years and stood in a near-derelict state surrounded by litter, its stone-work blackening. The organ's restoration will take up to

three years and cost an estimated £750,000. Roland Jeffrey, campaign director for the Friends of Christ Church, said: "It is even more complete than we dared hope."

William Drake, the organ builder who will carry out the restoration, described it as "a remarkable find". Although organs by Bridge survive at Shoreham and Clerkenwell, they have undergone many more alterations than the one at Spitalfields.

Mr Drake, of Buckfastleigh, Devon, has also been commissioned to restore the organ at Buckingham Palace and to build a new instrument for the medieval Crypt Chapel of St Stephen's in the Palace of Westminster. He said: "Until one dismantles an organ, one never knows what material it contains from an earlier period. In this case, we knew a certain amount existed from the 18th century. Very excitingly, it has the original wind system. This will all make it easier to reconstruct. It will be the best preserved organ of

this period in England." Most 18th-century organs underwent changes in the 19th century due to differences in musical taste. They were looking for a larger sound, a more orchestral sound. The 18th century is a period from which a lot of this information has been lost.

The instrument, within a walnut case, cost £600 in 1735. A contemporary account said: "By the most competent judges, the tone is pronounced to be unexcelled, combining sweetness with great dignity, breadth and power."

Restoration funds are being sought from the lottery, English Heritage and private donors. Mr Jeffrey said that the organ would not be fully restored until work on the church was finished: "We don't want it to fill with dust and debris from building work." A Dutch musician, Gustav Leonhardt, has agreed to give the inaugural recital — if all goes to plan, in about five years.



Chickenpox, just a bad itch to most children, kills several adults a year

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

over. The spots itch severely and every effort should be made to prevent scratching, which can cause secondary infection.

The disease is usually past its peak within a week, but the patient remains infectious until the last spot has crusted over. The virus is transmitted by droplets, sprayed into the atmosphere by coughing. Shingles is caused by a reactivation of the chickenpox virus which has been hidden in the central nervous system for years.

Every year several people die from chickenpox, but although fatal cases are rare, it makes adults very unwell, with a high temperature and a splitting headache. The rash is more dense and the face is

often covered in spots. Spots also occur in the mouth, which can make swallowing difficult, and within the trachea, which can cause a persistent dry cough. The older the patient the more likely complications become. When someone is immunocompromised the death rate from chickenpox, unless precautions are taken, is alarmingly high. Chickenpox is also dangerous to unborn children if it is caught late in pregnancy. Mrs Yates died of pneumonia. Pneumonia following chickenpox is often a very sudden onset and responds badly to treatment.

Encephalitis affects one person in a thousand with chickenpox, and has a particularly unpleasant feature — it

often appears a fortnight after the patient thinks recovery is complete. Cerebral symptoms may be no worse than a headache and irritability but it can cause a wide variety of neurological damage, including cerebellar ataxia, a staggering gait and a complete loss of balance. Reye's syndrome, encephalitis, accompanied by serious damage to the liver and other abdominal organs, is also an occasional complication of chickenpox. Aspirin makes it 30 times more likely and should not be given to anyone with chickenpox, whatever their age.

Where there is a very high risk of complications, prophylactic injections of the appropriate gamma-globulins should be given after contact with a case. In other cases, where the disease could be more severe than usual, acyclovir, an anti-viral drug, should be given at the very first hint of chickenpox, but in ordinary cases the only treatment needed is an antihistamine to control the irritation.

often appears a fortnight after the patient thinks recovery is complete. Cerebral symptoms may be no worse than a headache and irritability but it can cause a wide variety of neurological damage, including cerebellar ataxia, a staggering gait and a complete loss of balance. Reye's syndrome, encephalitis, accompanied by serious damage to the liver and other abdominal organs, is also an occasional complication of chickenpox. Aspirin makes it 30 times more likely and should not be given to anyone with chickenpox, whatever their age.

Where there is a very high risk of complications, prophylactic injections of the appropriate gamma-globulins should be given after contact with a case. In other cases, where the disease could be more severe than usual, acyclovir, an anti-viral drug, should be given at the very first hint of chickenpox, but in ordinary cases the only treatment needed is an antihistamine to control the irritation.

A policeman was reprimanded for dealing with a case involving his daughter. PC Peter Ramsden, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, should have passed it to other officers after finding that Anne, 20, was one of two women in a pub fight. The town's Labour MP, Barry Sheerman, called for an inquiry.

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Perseverance pays off for RAF 'swastika' squadron

BY JOHN YOUNG

AN RAF squadron that played a crucial role in the defeat of the Japanese in the Second World War has achieved official recognition more than half a century after it was disbanded. The Garter King of Arms has approved a new badge for the squadron association that will be dedicated at St Clement Danes, the RAF church in the Strand, on April 22.

The ceremony will mark the successful outcome of a long campaign by veterans and friends of 273 Squadron, including David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman in the last parliament, to have its achievements properly recognised.

The squadron was formed in 1942 and then reformed in Ceylon in August, 1943. It fought throughout the long and arduous campaign to recapture Burma in support of the Allied ground troops. Lord Mountbatten said of the RAF's role in the campaign: "Never have the land forces in any campaign owed more to their associated air forces."

Most squadrons were formed or reformed in Britain, where their badges were



The original badge, left, was rejected because of the swastika-like symbol, absent in the accepted version

submitted for royal approval. Far from home, members of 273 squadron designed their own badge and sent it to the War Ministry in London for authorisation, only to be told nearly two years later that it was unacceptable.

The reason was thought to be that the design incorporated an ancient Asian peace symbol, the fylfot, which had been copied from the wall of a Buddhist temple near the squadron's airfield in Ceylon. Unfortunately, the fylfot bore

a close resemblance to the Nazi swastika, a resemblance which the RAF high command evidently found too close for comfort.

The squadron, which was too busy fighting to put forward a different design, was disbanded early in 1946, never having served as a unit in Britain. The original 273 Squadron badge was displayed during the war but never received official approval.

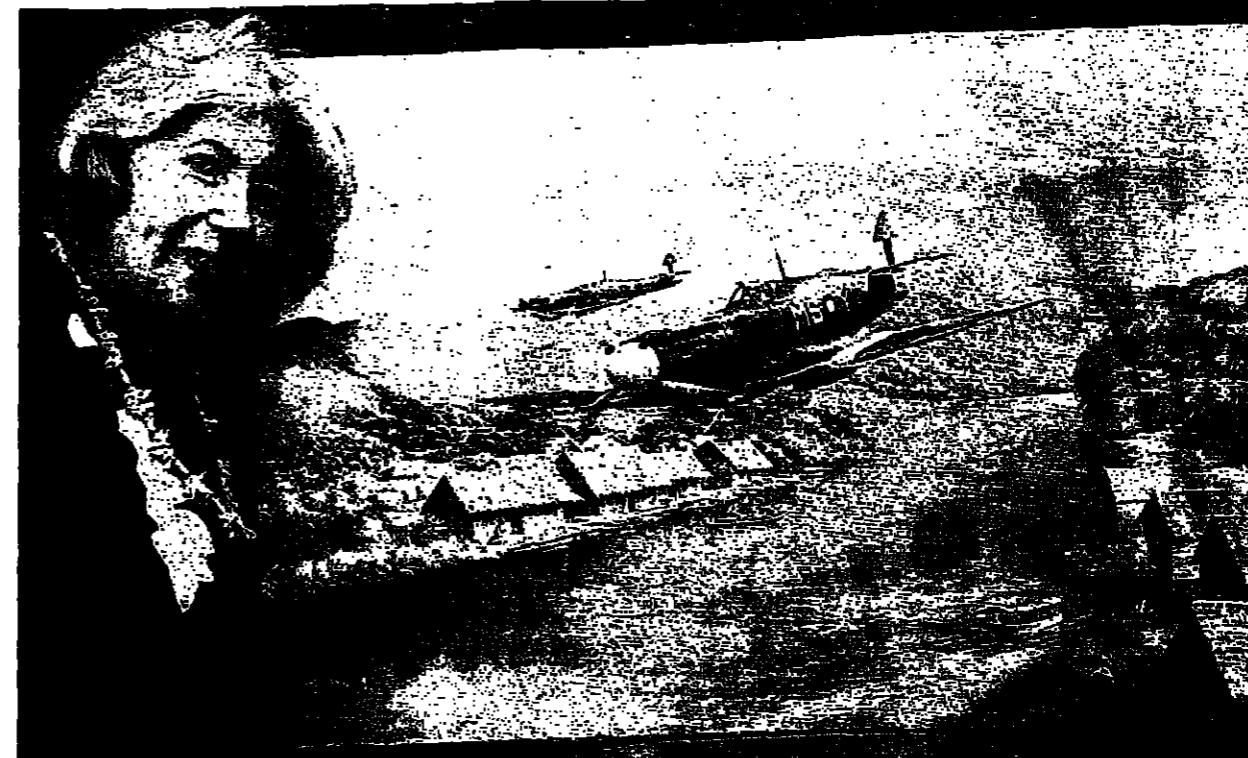
On their return home its

members were told that, since the squadron no longer existed, a badge could not be granted retrospectively. Consequently it could not be commemorated, along with other squadrons, on the floor of St Clement Danes or in the RAF museum at Hendon.

Last June, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, confirmed in the Commons that the rule still applied. However, he added that a badge could be granted to an official squadron association. He also said that the trustees of St Clement Danes would give "sympathetic consideration" to an application for memorial.

An association was duly formed last September under the presidency of Squadron Leader Jesse Hibbert, the squadron's last commander, who accepted the Japanese surrender in Saigon in 1945. The association has since been recognised by the Ministry of Defence as representing the interests of those who fought with the squadron in the war.

A final hitch occurred when it was found that there was no space between 272 and 274 squadrons on the church floor. Instead, the new



Jane Pelling, whose brother Ian flew with 273 Squadron, and the Trevor Lay painting of Spitfires over Burma

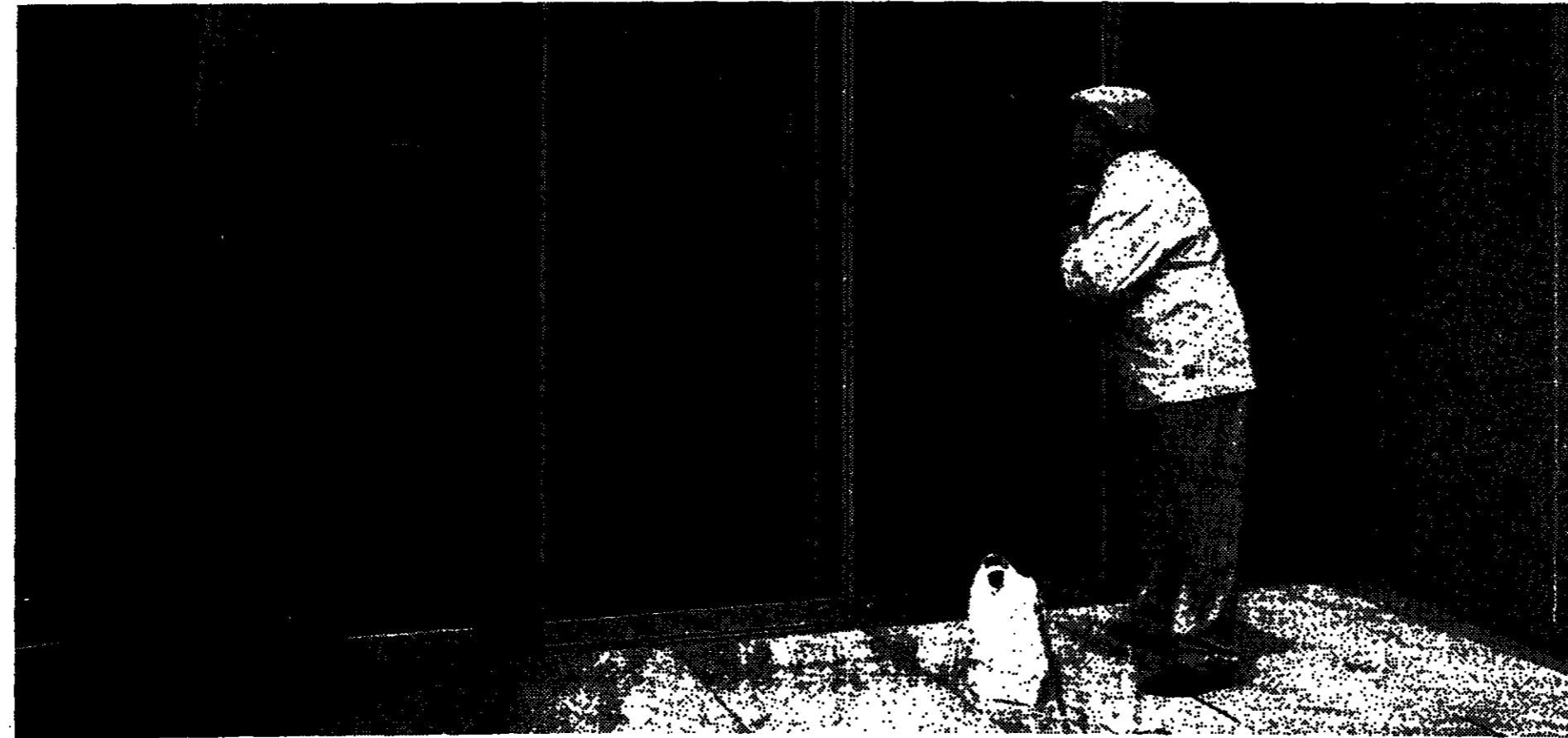
badge, without the fylfot and displaying the crown of the Queen instead of George VI, will have an honoured place next to that of No 1 Squadron,

the oldest of them all. Jane Pelling, whose late brother, Ian, flew with the squadron, has played a leading role in organising the

campaign for recognition. She hopes that sales of a limited edition of prints will help to defray part of the cost. The painting of Spitfires

flying over Burma, by Trevor Lay, is a rare depiction of the famous fighter aircraft operating outside the European theatre.

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Channel 5 wins over first-night audience

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

CHANNEL 5 was celebrating yesterday after viewing figures for its opening night exceeded its predictions and those of Channel 4.

Unofficial figures for Sunday gave the new channel a 5.8 per cent share of all viewing during the peak hours of 6.30pm and 10.30pm. Sally Osman, head of corporate affairs, said: "There was a lot of publicity about the launch. Nevertheless, this is a very good result, especially when only 60 per cent of people can receive Channel 5. We are aiming for an overall 5 per cent by the end of the year." The introductory programme, starring the Spice Girls, drew the biggest audience, 2.3 million people.

Channel 4, which has an average audience share of about 11 per cent, attracted 4.7 per cent during peak time. A spokesman said: "It is a good start for Channel 5, but it does not necessarily indicate what the long term will be."

□ Channel 4 is to run a twice-yearly programme, *Trial and Error*, appealing for viewers to solve miscarriages of justice and clear convicted prisoners, using reconstruction techniques similar to the BBC's *Crimewatch UK*.

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On 'Secret papers show 104 Nazis found haven with Franco'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

GENERAL FRANCO gave refuge to more than 100 active German Nazis at the end of the Second World War and provided many with new identities, according to a classified Allied document published here in the newspaper *El País*.

The revelation will excite historians and biographers of Franco, most of whom believed that the Caudillo kept a scrupulous distance from the scummiest side of Hitler's wartime enterprise.

The 11-page document, unearthed in the archives of the Spanish Ministry of External Affairs, lists the names, possible addresses in Spain and wartime activities of 104 Germans. The men were members of the SS, Gestapo or Abwehr — the military counter-intelligence service run by Admiral Canaris.

The catalogue of names, entitled the *Repatriation List*, was compiled by the Allied secret services, including MI5.

Le Pen launches plan to send migrants home

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S National Front wound up a tumultuous party congress in Strasbourg yesterday by outlining an election platform that the party leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, proclaimed would be a passport to parliament.

The party called for the repatriation of immigrants, the reinstatement of the death penalty and the repeal of laws banning the incitement of racial hatred which the National Front claims infringe freedom of speech.

The party argued that sending millions of immigrants home would be an act of kindness. "If France is hard hit by unemployment, Third World nations suffer from a cruel lack of qualified workers ... sending immigrants home would thus be a benefit to both parties," the party's officials declared.

Another National Front working group proposed that France's birth rate could be boosted and marriage encouraged by giving salaries to mothers providing, of course, they are native-born French citizens.

Meanwhile, the Left hailed



Mégré emerging as the heir apparent

Belarus and Russia to sign unity pact

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Presidents of Russia and Belarus are due to sign an accord tomorrow on the creation of a union of the two countries as the first step of a grandiose plan for the political, economic and military reintegration of the former Soviet Union.

The agreement, details of which have not been made public and which was drawn up without consulting either parliament, has been roundly condemned by liberal politicians in Russia, as well as nationalists in Belarus who regard it as a serious erosion of independence.

It flouts the mood of other leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, who at last weekend's Moscow summit showed they are more interested in strengthening national sovereignty than moving towards reintegration into a de facto Russian-led superstate.

The treaty appears to be based on a draft submitted by President Lukashenko of Belarus to President Yeltsin. This provides for a Supreme Council to be chaired by the two Presidents on a rotating

Albanian threat to Italian-led aid force

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

It was presented to the Franco regime in late 1945, as a preliminary basis for extradition proceedings. The Spanish Government, however, refused to hand over a single man. There is no recorded explanation of why the Allies did not persevere with their repatriation demands.

Many of the Nazis identified in the document were members of Spain's large German community when war broke out in 1939. According to the newspaper, they volunteered enthusiastically for the Nazi cause, serving mainly in the Abwehr.

A number of them were businessmen in the Basque country, then Spain's industrial heartland, and were active in the clandestine supply from Spain to Germany of essential raw materials such as tungsten. The Franco regime was paid in gold by the German Government, much of it stolen from Jews and shipped to

Madrid with the help of the Swiss National Bank.

According to *El País*, Abwehr members in Spain included Friedrich Lippert, a German entrepreneur who made a fortune before the war in the Basque country.

But his son, Federico, a board member of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, Spain's most powerful bank, denied his father was a Nazi. He said: "That is false. In fact, he hated them."

El País says that all but one of the people named in the document are dead.

The survivor, identified by the newspaper as Hans Juretschke, 88, a former professor in the department of German literature at Madrid's Complutense University, said:

"I had nothing to do with politics. During the war I had to follow the orders of the German Government. It happened to be a Nazi Government."

DESPITE the misgivings of military experts and opposition politicians, Italy will agree final details tomorrow for a multinational intervention force in Albania.

Greece and Romania declared their readiness yesterday to commit troops alongside Italy, France, Spain and Turkey. Military commanders from the Mediterranean coalition meet in Rome tomorrow and half the force — about 3,000 men — is expected to go into action "within the next two weeks", supported by light armour, with the rest held in reserve.

But in a sign of the obstacles the force will face in

"pacifying" Albania and protecting aid convoys, rebel leaders in the southern port of Vlore gave a warning that Italian troops would be killed.

Thousands of people in

Vlore turned out to condemn

Italy for an incident late last

Friday when an Italian corvette collided with an Albanian vessel packed with

refugees that it was trying to intercept. Survivors say more than 100 people, mainly women and children, died, although Italy says only four bodies were recovered. Thirty-four survived.

President Berisha ordered flags to stand at half-mast throughout Albania yesterday, and MPs in

Tirana stood for a minute's silence.

The Italian aim is to stabilise Albania and so stem

the tide of refugees to Italy," a

European diplomat said. "But

the mood has turned against

Italy because of this tragedy."

Vlore, 40 miles across the Adriatic from Italy, has such close links with the former

colonial power that its cafés bear Italian names and its people speak Italian fluently.

Italian defence officials said the "international protection force", to be deployed in

rotation, would consist of 2,000 to 2,500 Italian troops,

with 1,000 from France, 700

from Greece, 500 each from

Spain and Turkey, and 400

from Romania, with a few

from Hungary and Austria.

Switzerland and Slovenia

have offered police.



Relatives in Albania's port of Vlore mourn victims of the refugee ship which collided with an Italian vessel

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Suicide cult crew 'on space odyssey'

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

AS THEIR earthly bodies are cremated in San Diego, the 39 dead members of the Heaven's Gate cult are almost a week into their long-awaited space odyssey to the realm of the Hale-Bopp comet, a former member of the sect has declared.

Some of the suicide cult's beliefs, dismissed by mainstream America as evidence of outright lunacy, are still cherished by a stubborn few who once followed its leader and wish they had gone with him to the 'Next Level', it was revealed in interviews at the weekend.

"I believe they are on a spacecraft somewhere," Nick Cooke, a former disciple of Marshall Applewhite, the cult leader, told a San Francisco radio station. "Whether it's behind the comet or not I really don't know but I wish I had the strength to have stuck it out and gotten stronger and continued to be a part of that group."

Mr Cooke, whose wife stayed in the cult and was among the victims of last week's mass suicide in Rancho Santa Fe, said he did not believe she was dead but merely transported out of the "shell" or "container" of her body into a literal Heaven as a benevolent alien.

"I don't believe that she committed suicide," said Mr Cooke's daughter, Kelly, whose parents both deserted her for the cult when she was ten. "Suicide is a strong word to use when you consider that this is something she worked for all her life," she added.

Meanwhile, two investors have made offers near the \$1.6 million (£1 million) asking price for the cult's rented "mansion of death", an estate agent said. The investors hoped to "save the neighbourhood" by buying the property and tearing it down, the agent said.

Next Nato commander is Oxford graduate

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has chosen an army general who, like him, grew up in Arkansas and attended Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, to be the next military commander of Nato and head of US forces in Europe. General Wesley Clark will take over from General George Joulwan, who is due to retire this summer.

General Clark brings formidable skills to the task. He has been on the fast track ever since leaving West Point. He speaks Russian and was the senior military member of the team led by Richard Holbrooke that negotiated the Dayton peace accords that halted fighting in Bosnia.

As Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Clark will have to deal with Nato's expansion, relations with a suspicious Russia and the promised withdrawal of Nato forces from Bosnia next year. "We wanted someone who is both a soldier and a statesman, someone with diplomatic and policy experience," a Pentagon official said.

William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, recommended General Clark after interviewing more than a dozen generals.

An aspect of General Clark's career that has attracted attention is the extent to which his and Mr Clinton's paths have crossed. At 52, the general is only two years older than the President.

General Clark is at present head of Southern Command, based in Panama, the senior American military post in Latin America. General Joulwan, too, held the Southern Command appointment before moving to the post of Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Nato's supreme commander is always an American, but France is embroiled in a rift with the US over why that should also be true for command of the alliance's forces in southern Europe. The Clinton Administration is refusing to yield to French demands for a non-American in the post.

There has been a widespread but mistaken impression that the general and the President have enjoyed a long association, but they did not know each other in Arkansas, where they grew up in different towns, and their periods at Oxford did not overlap. He left Oxford with a master's in philosophy, politics and economics.

The two men first met during a student conference at Georgetown University in Washington in 1965 and did not see each other again for 19 years when General Clark, visiting his parents in Little Rock, dropped in to see Mr Clinton who was by then Governor of Arkansas. Two years ago, when Mr Clinton was asked if he knew General Clark, he is said to have replied: "I know Wes Clark, and he hasn't needed any help from me."

His "ticket" was punched in all the right places on his way to the top, as well as his Oxford master's he attended national war college and general staff college; was a company commander in Vietnam; battalion and division commander; held a White House fellowship; was head of army training and director of strategy; Pentagon joint staff. At Nato headquarters, he was a senior military assistant to Alexander Haig, a former commander.

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ANGELA PETERSON / AP

McVeigh bomb jury selection begins

FROM TOM RHODES
IN DENVER

JURY selection for the trial of Timothy McVeigh over the Oklahoma City bomb began in Denver, Colorado, yesterday with about 350 potential jurors being questioned.

The jury pool will be whittled down to 64 before the panel of 12 and six alternates are finally chosen. Both sides are believed to be employing expert jury consultants, including Donald Vinson, who worked on the O.J. Simpson criminal trial, who is reportedly helping Joseph Hartzler, the chief prosecutor.

The Simpson case left an indelible mark on America and McVeigh jurors, unlike their predecessors in Santa Monica, may return home at weekends. Judge Richard Matsch has guaranteed their anonymity.

Paid \$40 (£25) a day, rising to \$50 after a month, the jurors will hear a largely circumstantial prosecution case. The Government has no witnesses who can place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day of the attack and many survivors fear he has a chance of walking free.

However, the defence yesterday faced the daunting task of selecting a jury that could ignore Mr McVeigh's many published alleged confessions to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building on April 19, 1995.

"If there was ever a trial in American history where the defendant needed honest and candid responses from potential jurors, it's this trial," said Robert Hirschhorn, a jury consultant working for Terry Nichols, Mr McVeigh's co-accused, who is to be tried separately.

Despite the fact that 168 people were killed in the bombing, the two men are charged with only eight counts of first-degree murder. This is because such charges in federal courts are reserved for the alleged killing of government law enforcement officers on duty. Frank Keating, the Governor of Oklahoma, has indicated that murder charges relating to the 160 other people killed in the blast may be filed later in state courts. The two men are also accused of three bomb-related offences.

Air ace wins honour of Yamamoto kill

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

A FIGHTER ACE in the Second World War has won his long battle for recognition for shooting down the mastermind of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

US Air Force Colonel Rex Barber, 79, has been awarded full credit by fellow veterans for killing Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of Japan's Imperial Fleet, in one of the most celebrated instances in the Pacific.

The American Fighter Aces Association — for pilots who each shot down at least five planes — has ruled that Colonel Barber shot down Admiral Yamamoto's bomber "alone and unassisted".

Colonel Barber has always had to share credit for the

extraordinary ambush of Japan's top admiral with his former friend and fellow-pilot, Colonel Thomas Lanphier, who died in 1987.

"It's a good bonus all right," Colonel Barber said yesterday from his home in Terrebonne, Oregon. Colonel Barber and Lanphier were pilots in the 339th Fighter Squadron of 16 Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighters based at Guadalcanal. On April 18, 1943, their squadron was ordered to intercept Yamamoto as he flew on an inspection tour from Rabaul in New Guinea to the Solomon Islands.

It is widely accepted that Colonel Barber hit Yamamoto's bomber first, but Lanphier said he also fired at it. Since neither fighter was equipped with camera gunsights, there is no photographic evidence to verify the claims. "I came in behind him and shot," Colonel Barber said. "He was smoking pretty badly, especially the right engine. Suddenly, he flipped

up on one wing and I almost collided with him ... he crashed into the jungle."

The mission was kept secret until the end of the war to protect the fact that US Navy codebreakers had deciphered Japan's communications code. After the war, Lanphier was the first to go public with his claim to have shot down the Japanese commander. *The New York Times* told his story in September 1945.

"He had great visions of being a great man," Colonel Barber said. "He did anything he could to get all the glory for himself."

The American Fighter Aces Association has settled the case as a matter of honour, but its decision is not binding on the US Air Force and the official record is expected to remain unchanged.



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Israel ridicules threatened renewal of Arab boycott

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL ridiculed the call from the 22-member Arab League to reimpose an economic boycott on the Jewish state and accused the Arabs yesterday of scheming to topple the right-wing Government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

The war of words erupted as violence between Israeli troops and stone-throwing Palestinian rioters continued for the twelfth consecutive day. In the West Bank town of Jenin, one of those given Palestinian self-rule as part of the now threatened peace plan, Israeli troops firing rubber bullets wounded two Palestinians as they were attacked by a crowd of 200. Throughout the West Bank, Israeli tanks and assault helicopters remained on alert in case violence worsened.

Diplomats said that the rapid deterioration in relations between Israel and the Arab world had increased the urgency for President Clinton, who is meeting King Hussein of Jordan in Washington this week, to launch a diplomatic initiative in an attempt to defuse the increasing tensions.

The new erosion in the hopes for peace generated by the 1993 Oslo peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians came with a resolution from the Arab League in Cairo recommending member states to suspend normal relations with Israel and to reinstate the Arab boycott, which has largely fallen into disuse.

David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said that the Arab move, taken in protest against the continued building of a settlement for 32,000 Jews at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem, was part of a determined attempt to try to overthrow Mr Netanyahu's Government. "The peace process does not tolerate and will not tolerate an atmosphere of violence, not on the ground and not in diplomatic violence," Mr Levy said as members of the Likud coalition rallied in support of the Prime Minister.

"I say [to the Arabs]: leave the past behind and go to the future. The only way to resolve our differences is to talk to one another about them, not to try to coerce Israel by these pressure tactics or by fear, or by violence or by terror. We will not be cowed."

Mr Netanyahu made clear that there was no question of reopening peace talks with Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, until he proved that he was making a determined effort to root out Islamic terrorists.

In Cairo, Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, was jubilant after the boycott decision was taken and said he was confident that those Arab states that had been considering normalising ties with Israel and to reinstate the Arab boycott, which has largely fallen into disuse.

Home bulldozed

Zurif, West Bank An Israeli army bulldozer yesterday demolished rooms in the home of a Palestinian militant who had detonated a bomb in a Tel Aviv cafe last month, killing himself and three Israeli women. (AP)

Leading article, page 19

Middle East of perpetual conflict?" He responded with scorn to suggestions by the interviewer that the decision to go ahead with Har Homa, which has prompted street violence in which nearly 500 Palestinians have been injured, might be reversible.

Mr Netanyahu dismissed the call for a renewal of the Arab boycott. "It is an absurd idea that the boycott will be reinstated. It is not to be reinstated because it cannot be reinstated. We live in an open world, economic currents flow. Israel is a technological power with many, many ties to many countries."

"I say [to the Arabs]: leave the past behind and go to the future. The only way to resolve our differences is to talk to one another about them, not to try to coerce Israel by these pressure tactics or by fear, or by violence or by terror. We will not be cowed."

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Speculators rush to sell shares outside Bombay Stock Exchange yesterday as a governmental crisis pitched India into a period of uncertainty

Indian MPs barter coalition votes for cash

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S 13-party coalition Government was told yesterday to seek a vote of confidence by April 11. There will now be an intense period of "suitcase politics", the illegal practice of handing bags of money to MPs in return for their support.

The custom, also known euphemistically as horse-trading, could determine the shape of the Government. H. D. Deve Gowda, the

Prime Minister, stands little chance of saving his administration after losing the parliamentary support of the Congress party on Sunday.

Four days of talks in Delhi between India and Pakistan, the first in three years and the most promising in decades, ended yesterday effectively in ruins because of the political upheaval. There was no point in Pakistan making overtures to what could be a dying Government and the Indian side lost political momentum as the administration tottered.

Both sides ended the session with expressions of hope for the future, itself a mark of progress, but meaningless while India has no viable Government. It was agreed to resume the talks in Islamabad on Sunday.

Sitaram Kesri, president of the Congress party, said last night that he was confident of getting enough support to form a new administration under his prime ministership. His decision to withdraw support from the Government took the party by surprise —

say for its inner circle — and was described by some as a "death wish" because of the danger of failure.

Sharad Pawar, a senior party leader, said it was "a bolt from the blue". Most MPs are still baffled by Mr Kesri did it. He is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation in various cases, including the alleged bribery of MPs before a confidence vote that was narrowly won by the last Congress-led Government.

The circumstances of the death of his former physician are also being investigated.

Mr Kesri's attempt to gain power seems to have been launched in extraordinary haste, leading to speculation about some unexplained personal motivation. His party has 46 fewer MPs than the United Front coalition.

Mr Gowda hopes that the Congress party will split so that he can capture the support of a chunk of its MPs, particularly those allied to Mr Pawar, with whom he has a close relationship.

Chinese Communists insist they hold no political prisoners

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

BEIJING declared yesterday that there were no political prisoners in China and described more than 2,000 "counter-revolutionaries" as criminals.

The Government also congratulated France on dropping its co-sponsorship of a United Nations resolution condemning China's human rights record.

Zhang Xiuji, the Executive Deputy Minister of Justice, said: "In China counter-revolutionary pris-

oners are not political prisoners, they are prisoners who have endangered national security ... or have conducted activities to overthrow the political power of China."

This includes prisoners like Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, who are serving their second long prison sentences, imposed at their brief trials for what they had written. A recent US State Department annual human rights report on China observed that all public dissent had been silenced.

The Chinese statement on political prisoners came two days after

Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, said in Beijing: "America cannot remain silent about the lack of freedom — speech, religion, assembly, the press — in China."

Yesterday the official *People's Daily* newspaper congratulated France for announcing that it would not sponsor a motion for the forthcoming UN meeting in Geneva on human rights condemning China's record. "This is a wise decision," the paper said. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday: "We know that the rule of

law is far from being established in China and that this process will take time but a choice must be made between a confrontation that is cut off from reality and a constructive dialogue."

Shen Guofang, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said he hoped other countries would follow the French example, but added that even dialogue must not be "a tool for exerting political pressure".

Over the weekend Yukihiko Ieda, Japan's Foreign Minister, told Qiqichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, that Tokyo was also

considering dropping its support for the UN resolution. The US has said it will support the move, which is defeated each year after Beijing mobilises support from other countries with human rights problems, such as Burma and Indonesia.

Yesterday Beijing's State Council released a 13,000-word report outlining the country's progress on human rights. Divided into seven parts, it includes democratic rights, judicial guarantees, women and children, minorities and workers.

It emphasises Beijing's familiar theme that China concentrates on

food, clothing and shelter, and states: "Statistics show that China is the country which has witnessed the quickest decrease in its poverty-stricken population."

But it also says that China is improving its legal structure and healthcare and that "the severe crackdown on crime has safeguarded social stability and the human rights of the people all over the country and won the heartfelt support of the general public".

The crackdown, known as "strike hard," included the detention of a few remaining dissidents.



Wang: second long term in prison

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Midlands - Bank Account	1.05	13.30	NONE
NatWest - Current Plus	1.38	17.80	£5

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Zaire rebels reach diamond-rich heartland

By SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

ZAIRE'S rebels yesterday looked set to roll unopposed into the country's economic heartland after taking the centre of the rail system for the two richest provinces without a battle before peace talks, expected to start in South Africa this week.

Forces under the command of Laurent Kabila yesterday overran Kamina which controls rail access to Kasai, the diamond-rich province, and Shaba, its southern neighbour. Residents in both areas are waiting for the arrival of the rebels and have said that they will not put up a fight.

Groups of rebel fighters under Tutsi officers have been reported heading towards Shaba and Kasai by rail over the last few weeks, having captured the artery which runs east to Lake Tanganyika earlier this year. But the prospect of those alighting in Lubumbashi, capital of Shaba province, and in Mbujimayi, the centre of East Kasai's diamond industry, looked very close yesterday after the fall of Kamina, 400 miles northwest of the Shaba capital.

"The only thing that has been slowing down the rebel advance across Zaire has been geography. It's a very big country to walk across and there are very few roads," said a Western ambassador in Kinshasa yesterday.

"We expect them to turn up in Lubumbashi and Mbujimayi perhaps by the weekend," he added.

The sudden strategic blow to the Government of President Mobutu came as both sides were preparing to meet



for talks on a ceasefire in South Africa next week. With every town and city that falls both analysts and the rebels themselves have been asking what there is left to talk about.

Already the governors of Shaba and Kasai have openly stated that they are looking forward to the arrival of Mr Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation Congo-Zaire, because their administrative record in the third of the country already captured has been impressive.

In preparation the streets of Lubumbashi have been swept and whitewashed for the first time in more than a decade. Locally based soldiers have been ordered to maintain strict discipline on pain of death and to put up no resistance when the rebels finally arrive, members of Mr Mobutu's own family said recently.

Three decades of dictatorial rule have left most Zaireans worse off than when they were under Belgian colonial domination, when failure to meet rubber quotas often meant the amputation of a hand.

Mr Kabila, 57, a Luba tribesman from northern Shaba province, is now seen by the majority of Zaireans as someone who can restore the rule of



Rwandan refugees, most of them Hutus, arriving at a camp near Kisangani after fleeing from rebels who yesterday took a vital rail centre

law after 31 years of "kleptocracy" under Mr Mobutu. So far he has captured verdant agricultural areas, but his moral mettle will be tested when his men jump off the trains in Mbujimayi and Lubumbashi. The fields around the former are packed with diamond diggers a

few feet deep. In 1992 a \$7 million gem was harvested by a peasant.

Lubumbashi, the industrial capital of Zaire, is rich in uranium and copper, but its main "cash crop" is cobalt. More valuable than gold, the metal is an essential ingredient for jet engines and is the

subject of a large amount of smuggling. "The temptations are obvious," the Western ambassador said.

□ Goma: Some 30,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees, who have fled the troubled Zairean region of Masisi, were yesterday less than 30 miles west of Goma, a United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees official said. Filippo Grandi added that the refugees had earlier fled two camps in northern Goma and were sheltering in Masisi where, according to the Government in Kigali, Rwandan Hutu extremists have launched a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" to create a "Hutu land" for Hutus who refuse to return to Rwanda. Yesterday the refugees agency opened a new camp near the northeast Zairean town of Kisangani to provide relief for some 20,000 refugees at large in the region since the town fell to rebels two weeks ago. (AFP)

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Gunman to die for school killings

Sanaa: A Yemeni gunman was sentenced to death by firing squad yesterday for killing a headmistress, a teacher and three children at two schools here on Sunday.

Muhammad Ahmad Misleh al-Nazari will be allowed to appeal today. Al-Nazari, who is charged with murdering five people, the attempted murder of 12 and resisting arrest, said he intended to kill the headmistress's husband. He said that the couple approved the kidnap and rape of his eight-year-old daughter. The court heard that tests showed she was still a virgin. (Reuters)

Laundered cash goes flying

Tokyo: A Japanese man is trying to recover 8 million yen (£38,650) which his two-year-old daughter threw off their balcony in Osaka, newspapers reported here. The man had withdrawn the money from the bank to buy a lottery for his construction business and his wife put it out to dry after it was accidentally included in the washing. (AFP)

Out of action

Ibiza: Abel Matutes, 55, the Spanish Foreign Minister, will need two months to recover from a mild heart attack he suffered over the weekend, doctors said. Senator Matutes was spending the Easter weekend on his native Ibiza. He has now left intensive care. (AFP)

Pig of a life

Taipei: A Taiwan Buddhist group says it plans to erect a shrine here and pray for good reincarnations for more than a million pigs that were destroyed during a recent widespread outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. (Reuters)



Napoleon, depicted in exile on St Helena. Now the island's jobless also face despair

St Helena seeks investors as British aid dwindles

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ST HELENA, one of Britain's poorest and most isolated remaining colonies, may sink into oblivion and despair unless more outside investment can be directed to the South Atlantic island best known as the final exile of Napoleon.

The Foreign Office has

to win new business for the remote territory, where unemployment is over 18 per cent and three-quarters of the population are employed by the colonial government.

St Helena, uninhabited on its discovery in 1502 and with a population now of 6,000 from mixed British and Indian descent, has virtually no natural resources, no airport and a massive annual budget deficit. Latest figures show

that it imported goods worth £4,692,000, but its exports were only £145,000. Britain makes up the difference, with budgetary aid last year amounting to £3,680,000.

St Helena receives more than £5 million a year, the highest amount per head of British aid anywhere in the world. But British funds are dwindling. Aid was cut by 20 per cent between 1993 and 1994, and social distress and unrest are growing.

Sir Nicholas Bousfield, the Foreign Office Minister of State who opened the business forum last month, said Britain wanted to make the island self-sufficient and prosperous. The Government is trying to reduce the dependence on the public sector and develop a private sector. The aim is to encourage new jobs and investment.

Napoleon, who was exiled on the island, died there in 1821.



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- No Mortgage Indemnity
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- No redemption penalty
- Capital raise up to £50,000
- Cheque book facility available to draw funds when required

Free re-mortgage package available.

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The political stars of the future are already telling ministers what to do. Michael Gove



If there were ever any doubt, the events of the past week prove that politics in Britain is about as secure a future as pyramid selling in Alabama or computer programming in southern California. Nevertheless, there is no shortage of young men and women who will spend the next month sacrificing sleep and sanity for the sake of their party. They are the spin doctors in short trousers, the political stars of tomorrow who are already telling ministers what to do. They range from a second-generation immigrant to a teetotal Jewish intellectual who ran student social democracy — and that's just the Tories.

Spin doctor is, like Häagen-Dazs, an ugly American name for a jazzed-up version of an old product. Since Seneca churning out speeches for his masters in ancient Rome, politicians have relied on a support staff to feed them tines and fashion their images. The new name derives from baseball, where coaches teach the pitchers how to add "spin" to a ball. These gurus, who believe that when bowling it's good to torque, became known as "spin doctors".

In due course, the policy coaches who add a "spin" or interpretation when politicians play hardball became known as "spin doctors". No sooner did the name become common currency than there were more star spinners around than at a Motown retrospective. Labour's media-manipulator, Peter Mandelson, and Margaret Thatcher's

come almost household names. Now there is a new generation, itching to slip into their flossed leather.

The baby spin doctors who lurk just off camera when the soapbox is set up, have as much riding on this election as the people bidding for high office. A well-placed brief, snappy suggestion for a sombrite or tactfully adroit spray of Silvkin can save a frontbencher from disaster and set up the apprentice adviser for a gilded future. But although success can depend on a single intervention, a great deal is demanded.

Just before dawn, the young volunteers will be eagerly scanning the papers, straining

to catch Jim Naughtie's voice on *Today* and preparing "lines to take", which come from cuttings, not *Coleman's*. Both main parties "have war rooms", Labour's in Millbank Tower, the Tories in Smith Square. From today, they operate 24 hours a day, and the atmosphere combines the ops centre from *The Damblasters* with the dealing floor from *Wall Street*.

The politicians depend on an army of support staff to cope with the pressure of permanent electioneering. It is an army that spins on its stomach, with Labour's team enjoying access to a 24-hour privatised canteen. Alcohol is not available, but it isn't

banned. "It doesn't need to be," comments one irritable staffer, "there isn't time to spin and swallow simultaneously."

The reward for these backroom boys and girls is, however, more than just a warm, ideological glow. Their predecessors have graduated to places in Parliament and the press. Politicians from Michael Portillo to Jack Straw cut their wisdom teeth as ministerial aides, as did journalists such as our own Matthew Parris and David Lipsey, the award-winning and anonymous *Economist* columnist.

The current generation of advisers includes several men and women already groomed, some perhaps too well

grooved, for stardom. New Labour is closer to *GQ* than the Tories, whose tweed and anorak style is more *Country Life* meets *PC World*.

Derek Draper is the archetypal new Labour adolescent, apparetchik from the soles of his Patrick Cox shoes to a mind schooled in intrigue as a Manchester student. Once an assistant to Mandelson, he is less apprentice and more a once-sleek cutting growth to rival the original plant. He has taken a leave of absence from the political consultancy Prima Europe, managed by Roger Liddle, who wrote *The Blair*

Revolution with Mandelson, to work in Millbank Tower.

His rival for recognition as the most talented new Labour spin doctor under 30 — a title even more hotly contested than the Premiership — is Tony Blair's personal press officer, Tim Allan. A cropped haircut and clipped telephone manner can convey a hint of menace, but Allan is not naturally domineering in the mould of Mandelson or Alastair Campbell, Blair's press secretary. Nor is he a long-time intimate of the lead-

er like the tight-lipped office Medusa Anji Hunter, head of Blair's private office. But Allan has won the respect of journalists for the always unadorned, and always unattributable, way he reflects his master's voice. What unites Allan and Draper is a genuine understanding of what new Labour means. Having grown up with the collapse of Marxism and a loss of faith in the collective, they have learnt to imagine how progressive ideals might be secured using the grimy tools of the market. Many may pay lip-service to the Blair reforms as the price of power but Allan, Draper and many of their contemporaries are true believers.

There are older figures within Labour's support team, who may not be true believers, but who realise that progress depends on power and power

depends on Blair remaining in control. Typical of those who provide internal steel are the election campaign co-ordinator, Margaret McDonagh, and the director of organisation, David Gardner, who was head-hunted by Blair from the Public Policy Unit.

McDonagh and Gardner are, according to one Labour staffer, "The people who will win us the election after next". Their hands have been behind the recent "retirements" of MPs and the installation of talented loyalists as well as NEC reforms, which should ensure less internal turbulence for a Blair government.

The ability to end little local difficulties with a dictat from the centre is just what the Tories need. But even though they have as much control over their wayward fringe as Jarvis Cocker, the Tories do boast talent at the centre.

Their most prominent backroom briefer is Major's own spin matron, Sheila Gunn, but the main Tory spin doctor is Charles Lewington. Although Lewington has a whiff of sulphur about him, it is probably due to nothing more than the cigars he smokes. He is, however, closely associated with Steve Hilton, the Saatchi admiral who dreamt up the "demon eyes" poster. Hilton, the shaven-headed son of immigrant Hungarians who worked in Central Office in 1992, is now the lynchpin of the M & C Saatchi advertising campaign. Working with the account manager Marcus Peffers, Hilton is a home-grown James Carville, all energy and aggression to Peffers's smooth

STEVE HILTON

Tory linkman with ad agency M & C Saatchi, age 27
Is he as mean as he looks?
Meant, however, is that he is a two-bit dog. Although he can be as charming as Bob Hoskins in a BT ad, he treats Labour's attempts to trespass on Tory ground like Hoskins treated bad boys in *The Long Good Friday*.
So an Essex man in miniature?
More Sussex boy in braces. Scholarship boy at Christ's Hospital public school and New College, Oxford, he graduated to adland after thinking up slogans at Central Office, transforming a dull line on Kinnock's opposition to Tory Training and Enterprise Councils into "No VECs please, we're Labour."

DANNY FINKELSTEIN

Tory Party director of research, age 24
Is he as brainy as he looks?
Brainer. A politics nut with an intellect larger than Norfolk and twice as fertile, his views are centre right but his style is Wilf Lunn on E.
Wired kind of guy, then?
Not in that sense. He's a festal non-smoker, and his Coke addiction is restricted to cans of Diet straight from the fridge.
So not traditionalist?
No. Although this refugee from the SDP is a born-again Eurosceptic and flagwaver, he is, with his graphs, market models and Fifth Avenue salesmanship, the very model of a Tory moderniser.

TIM ALLAN

Tony Blair's personal press officer, age 26
Seems like a nice boy.
Don't you believe it. Bawls out bohemia hawks who don't take the leadership line with: "I've never seen such sloppy copy. How could you write such distorted drivel?"
Sounds like scary spice?
Well... wizened correspondents have learnt to take such magisterial putdowns from a 26-year-old with a pinch of salt, but few deny he knows his master's mind.
A sure bet for the 2020 Labour Cabinet?
Unlikely. The former *A Week in Politics* researcher wants to make it in New York, not new Labour, and harbours ambitions of making a corporate fortune Stateside.

DAVID MILLIBAND

Head of Blair's policy team, age 30
Not another bleeding Einstein?
Einstein did not have David's intellectual range. From fiscal policy minutiae to adopting the cultural tropes of the football terrace, Milliband's your man.
Anything he cannot do?
Crack convincing jokes about Tony. He's a true believer, although being the son of a Marxist free-thinker and himself practically a college Commie, he is *plus Blair-ite que Blair*.
Bet he comes a cropper...
No evidence of it yet. Even enemies — there aren't many — want him in the Commons to boost the pool of talent; others fear Tony can't afford to let him go.

JANE BONHAM CARTER

Liberal Democrat communications chief, age 34
Any relation to Helen?
From the same great Liberal dynasty as the porcelain-skinned starlet and the Edwardian Prime Minister H. H. Asquith. So more at home at a cocktail party than a political party?
Not at all. As a former producer on *Newsnight* and the editor of *A Week in Politics* who once stepped out with rough-diamond Scottish MP Charles Kennedy, she is as streetwise in SW1 as she is in demand for dinner in W1.
Will that be enough to maintain Paddy's profile?
If anyone can turn the Lib Dems from also-rans into a yellow peril for other parties, it will be her.

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on the baby spin doctors, the infant admen and apprentice advisers in short pants



Charles Lewington, the main spin doctor for the Conservatives



Tim Allan, Tony Blair's personal press officer who has won the respect of journalists



Jane Bonham Carter is spinning for the Liberal Democrats

efficiency. Hilton's boss, Maurice Saatchi, has told friends "no one reminds me as much of me when young as Steve". Hilton is believed to be already planning his own business after the election.

A little older, although scarcely less energetic, is the Tory Director of Research, Danny Finkelstein. A student social democrat and (Dief) Coke friend he is credited with providing the Tories with what coherence their campaign possesses. He recognised it was impossible to say Labour had not changed but was astute enough to recognise the threats to Tory values new Labour might pose.

Finkelstein and Hilton are both on the rising Right of their party. Believing that personal independence and national independence can create a nation at ease with itself, they mix easily with

unstuffy contemporaries. Finkelstein's deputy Andrew Cooper, Major's deputy political secretary and bus-boy George Bridges, the man who will gut the papers for him each morning. George Osborne, are all twentysomethings who can hold their Belgian beer at a drinks party as easily as they hold their own with a nervous minister minutes before *Election Call*.

Other parties boast their own baby aides but it is in the big two that the little ones have their best chances of advancement. The Lib Dems' most talented youngsters are fighting as candidates, leaving the spinning to the just-in-her-thirties Jane Bonham Carter.

At the end of the election, some of the hopefuls may have little more to show for their efforts than a tear-stained leader's letter of thanks — but others will have spun their way into more profitable futures. It's Sheila's rapt face you'll see gazing up.

LIMELIGHT... AND SHADOW

There are some backroom boys who can't wait to elbow their way to attention, while others prefer to remain, in Clare Short's words, "the people who live in the Dark".

SHEILA GUNN

Major's personal spin doctor, age 48. Hardly a baby spin doctor? Manners! Although past her twenties Sheila is new to spinning, having spent several years in the lobby before crossing over. So she's wise to the back's tricks? Yes and no. Although she knows how to sell stories, she's so addicted to the inside dope that she can't help letting secrets slip. Does that annoy her bosses? Not at all. Sheila is adored by the PM and whenever the camera strays to the soapbox, it's Sheila's rapt face you'll see gazing up.

GEORGE OSBORNE

Briefs Major every morning, age 25. You mean he puts the Y-fronts on? No, he puts the papers and lets the Prime Minister know what's running in the press and what response is required. So he's just a pot-and-paste man? Not quite — the job requires tact. Michael Portillo did the same job for Maggie in 1979 and never looked back.

Can the youngster stand up to bad news every morning? George has been Douglas Hogg's adviser for the past two years. After that, this'll be a picnic.

DEREK DRAPER

Consultant, Prima Europe, age 27. An outsider clambering aboard the Blair bandwagon? Helped Mandelson to get between hard covers, and brains behind *Progress*.

A dedicated political soldier? Few doubt his dedication but, despite the mod crop, Degsy is a midnight runner. A late night cocktail-sipper, he is a Sea Breeze socialist. Party animal? Up to a point. Although fond of intrigue, social or political, he hopes to become a Labour Hezza, presiding over a publishing empire.

ANJI HUNTER

Head of Blair's private office, age 43. Another Islington luvvie? Hardly. Anji was briskly educated at a Jean Brodie-style school in rural Scotland and now lives well away from the Smoke — she has mud on her boots. And blood on her fingernails? Well, now you mention it, she is tough. Hard then, but presumably not deep? Anji is no intellectual but Blair has come to trust her cool judgment and direct line to Middle England — she is uniquely valuable, having friends who read the *Daily Mail* for pleasure.

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TOMORROW

Part Two
Michael Gove on the glamour girls and boys

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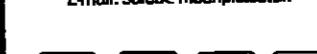
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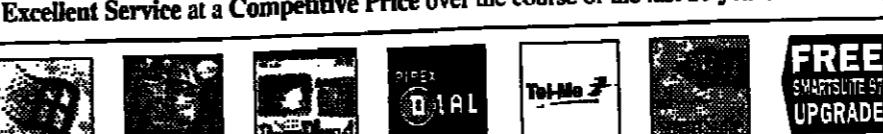
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■ VISUAL ART 1

Brussels pays tribute to the late Paul Delvaux with a massive retrospective of his surrealist paintings



■ VISUAL ART 2

In a new London show of his sculpture and graphics, Randy Klein proves that art can also be fun



■ CD CHOICE

John Eliot Gardiner's recording of Bach's St John Passion is this week's Building a Library choice



■ TOMORROW

Woody Harrelson reveals what it's like to play the most infamous pornographer in America

Death and the maidens

Richard Cork
goes to
Brussels for a
retrospective of
the grotesque
world of
Paul Delvaux

Around 1930, Paul Delvaux made the unsettling discovery that would transform his art for ever. On a visit to the *Midi Fair* in Brussels, he came upon a gruesome shed labelled "Dr Spitzer's Large Museum". In this hushed and macabre cabinet of curiosities, purportedly on display "for the education of the public", Delvaux was confronted by an array of anatomical abnormalities. Congenital deformities and the distressing results of syphilitic illness were exposed in windows and showcases. Skeletons loomed, and so did a mechanised wax figure of a Venus sleeping against a red velvet backdrop.

Delvaux was spellbound. Lingering by the entrance, where the cashier seemed almost as much of a mannequin as the artificial figures elsewhere, he was particularly fascinated by a 19th-century painting of Dr Charcot conducting a clinical lesson with a woman in a trance. Whether or not he realised it then, Delvaux had hit on his central obsession as an artist. For the rest of his long career, he would return time and again to the sleeping Venus. And all the other women who throng his canvases seem to be held in a trance as dream-like as the one imprisoning Dr Charcot's patient.

Now, three years after his death, Delvaux's prolific and relentless output is surveyed in a colossal retrospective at the Royal Museum of Fine Art of Belgium. In the heart of the city where he made that momentous fairground discovery, his art is being celebrated as the work of a homespun modernist master, second only to Magritte in national popularity. But the opening rooms reveal just how uncertain the young Delvaux felt about his identity as a painter.

To judge by a 1905 photograph taken in the Bois de la Cambre in Brussels, he had a comfortable bourgeois childhood. His mother and nanny stand behind him, guarding the elaborate pram containing his baby brother. But Delvaux himself, whose father was a barrister at the Brussels Court of Appeal, stares at the camera with a solemn, introspective air. And the correctly dressed women rearing above him take on the stiffness of the



Chamber of fears: *Sleeping Venus*, 1944, by Paul Delvaux demonstrates the artist's lifelong preoccupation with death and the female form

female figures dominating so many of his later canvases.

Precisely how Delvaux's imagination was formed at this period can only be guessed at. But we do know that the seven-year-old child was fascinated by the human skeletons in his school's biology laboratory. Jules Verne's *A Journey to the Centre of the Earth* captivated him three years later, and during his adolescence Homer's *Odyssey* prompted him to draw mythological scenes in his school notebooks.

All these diverse stimuli would eventually nourish his work. For the moment, though, he excluded them from the paintings produced in the 1920s. These unexceptional canvases, ranging from a sunlit forest scene to damp urban views where huddled working figures hint at his social conscience, are openly derivative of Impressionism and early Van Gogh. Their lack of individuality is striking in view of Delvaux's later single-mindedness. Only a steam-filled railway station and a melancholy view of the Rue des Sols hint at the images to come.

By the middle of the decade, more fanciful ideas enlivened his dour, dogged vision. A sickly-sweet *Family Portrait* looks oddly feverish, and the visionary strangeness of *Saints at Sea*, likewise painted in 1925, suggests that Delvaux

was already suspecting that his true bent lay in exploring fantastical images.

But he could not, as yet, define a style of his own. The influence of the Flemish Expressionists and the Walloon group Nervis meant that his large figure compositions of the late 1920s lacked rigour. The young girls in the forest look nakedly simpering, while their occasional encounters with men are merely coy. Delvaux's handling does not possess the exactitude he insisted on later.

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Only in 1932 do we sense the emergence of a more urgent, focused priority. *Sleeping Venus* I may still look scrappy and unresolved, but the subject prophecies Delvaux's future direction with a new assurance. The reclining nude, clearly indebted to her wax counterpart in the Spitzer Museum, lies on a makeshift, red-striped mattress. Her languorous pose, so indebted to a long line of European Venuses from Giorgione to Ingres, makes her seem oblivious of the people ranged above. The cashier and clownish musicians beyond confirm that Delvaux is here drawing on memories of his momentous encounter at the *Midi Fair*.

Contact with the Belgian

Delvaux soon succumbed to the mysterious, tantalising aura of Magritte's work. His influence, above all else, surely accounts for the sudden stylistic leap in the exhibition. The uncouth handling of *Sleeping Venus* I is put aside, and we are confronted by the stripped, austere certainty of *The Fire*, painted in 1935. It shows a woman in a dark

dress staring from a balcony towards a blazing house and could easily be illustrating the climactic scene in *Jane Eyre*. If Delvaux had shown the woman's face, it would probably not have revealed anything other than a deadpan, wide-eyed vigilance. That, after all, is the overriding expression of the female figures who now begin to stand, walk and recline in his paintings. Magritte continues to exert a substantial influence, but the deserted classical piazzas favoured by de Chirico must

have helped to shape many of these images. As the 1930s proceed, however, his own peculiar preoccupations assert themselves as well.

Whether wearing fetishistic pink bows or frolicking like mermaids in a grey, northern sea, enigmatic women give his work a personal stamp at last. In moments of metamorphosis, her long tresses turn into cascading ivy. Sometimes bowler-hatted men, who appear to have strayed from Magritte's work, stride past these richly inflected goddesses. But the male gaze is averted, and the suspicion grows that Delvaux sees these women as figures to be avoided.

In a 1943 canvas called *The Spitzer Museum*, he finally equates them with a hunger for death. A bare-breasted figure advances in a state of ecstasy towards a waiting skeleton, whose hands appear ready to clasp her. Between them, a naked youth hovers as if unable to move.

The longer these paintings are scrutinised, the more Delvaux seems to be motivated by a morbid fear of women. These unapproachable figures, posed in classical cityscapes, seem to be waiting for the grave. In order to ram home his growing awareness of mortality, Delvaux embarked on an elaborate sequence of paintings inhabited solely by skeletons in the mid-1940s. The skeletons conduct

conversations in an office, lie on a chaise longue or bend down to clasp a shell lying on a temple floor.

Seen in quantities, their symbolism quickly grows tiresome. But when Delvaux relegated the skeleton to the side of a monumental canvas called *Sleeping Venus* in 1944, the outcome was more impressive. The centre of the composition is taken up with the most seductive of his deities. Recumbent on an antique couch and illuminated by the moon, she is unaware of the gesticulating women around her. The silent architecture of a Roman city encloses their protesting figures, impassive. And the solitary clothed woman seems to acknowledge the presence of the skeleton, who advances towards Venus's defenceless, even expectant body.

Delvaux never painted better than in 1944, and everything in the subsequent sections of the Brussels show is an anti-climax. Apart from a monotonous partiality for trains, he never strayed from his favoured formula. Having fixed his frozen and melancholy world with the help of Dr Spitzer's house of horrors, he trapped himself inside it and never broke free.

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BACH'S ST JOHN PASSION

Reviewed by George Pratt

HEARING a *Passion* in Bach's own time, an elderly noble widow exclaimed: "God save us, my children! It's just as if we were at a comic opera." The *Passion* is indeed operatic — a cast of characters including the chorus as a raging mob, arias to reflect on the action, the action described in the Evangelist's recitative.

Rogers Covey-Crump with Parrott (VCD 545096-2) sings eloquently, while David Thomas is an aptly human Jesus. Other strongly expressive Evangelists include Ian Honeyman with Dombrecht (new this month from Vanguard Classics) and Ian Partridge with Christopher (CHAN 0507/8), excellent if you prefer arm's-length drama, the sound rather distant. Cleobury with the Choir of King's College, Cambridge (Cambridge Classics) moderates the protestant figures, impassive. And the solitary clothed woman seems to acknowledge the presence of the skeleton, who advances towards Venus's defenceless, even expectant body.

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Forster in 1962 to a mere eight crisp voices — the Scholars Baroque Ensemble on budget Naxos. Most virtuosic are Koopman's Nederlandse Bachvereniging, while Gardiner integrates the Monteverdi Choir into the narrative with breathtaking effect. In chorales, both of these only stretch the pulse at phrase endings, to create breathing-spaces. Bach was supremely sensitive to colour: no two arias are scored alike, a strong argument for period instruments — and against Rilling (Hänsler). He, though, provides a third CD with spoken commentary in charmingly accented English.

Koopman (Erato 45096-2) is irresponsibly artful, ready to take a risk. But for the library, implying repeated listenings, I return to Gardiner (Archiv 419 324-2 £29.99). His forces are virtually faultless.

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■ POP

In Dublin, the Manic Street Preachers prove they are fighting fit as they launch an extensive tour



■ CHOICE 1

A new staging for an award-winning radio play by Anthony Minghella

VENUE: From tonight at the Man in the Moon, SW3

THE TIMES ARTS



■ CHOICE 2

A West End run for Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* in the Haymarket

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Theatre Royal



■ CHOICE 3

John Godber's latest comedy, *Shakers Restirred*, hits Cheltenham

VENUE: Tonight at The Other Space, Everyman

Three's the best company

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, as Nietzsche observed. No rock band proves this point more strikingly than the Manic Street Preachers. The disappearance of Richey Edwards – guitarist, lyricist and a core artistic director of the band – and the often parochial media publicity which followed in its wake must have tested the resolve of the remaining members to the limit.

But while lesser mortals would have thrown in the towel and gone back to their day jobs, Messrs Bradfield, Moore and Wire, after a strategic retreat, came out fighting with their best album to date, *Everything Must Go* is the masterpiece they had threatened to make ever since their inception, an extraordinarily powerful amalgam of plangent, melodic guitars, skyscraping strings and pithy meditations on such things as society, art and existentialism. Even the tour merchandise in the Olympia foyer quotes Sartre.

A year after its release, the album is still riding high in the charts, having secured a clutch of industry awards, from the Brits to the Brits. The

■ POP

Manic Street Preachers Olympia, Dublin

lap of honour that is their extensive Irish and UK tour began in this plush Dublin theatre last Saturday night and if they weren't consistently running at full pace, they nevertheless were rarely put off their stride.

An instrumental version of the anemic *A Design for Life* on backing tape was the curious choice of intro, and from there it was straight into *Australia*. The high-voltage power surge of *Faster and Kevin* followed soon afterwards, but their cover of *Suicide is Painless* – a song they recorded years before Richey went AWOL – seemed to blow a fuse, with the audience clearly unsure about the degree of significance that should be attached to its performance.

Motorway Junk was less ambiguous, a distortion-driven pastiche of the Supremes' *Where Did Our Love Go?*

segueing into the Manics' proto-punk missive.

Visually the band are eye-catching as a safety pin through the nose. Singer James Dean Bradfield swings wildly around the stage on one leg, somehow managing to extract note-perfect those great riffs from his guitar in the process.

Meanwhile, bassist Nicky

Wire, resplendent in a trainspotters' raincoat and exotic shades, nonchalantly gets down on his knees with the air of someone who finds the task of having to stand up and play an instrument too much of a struggle. He's a star for sure.

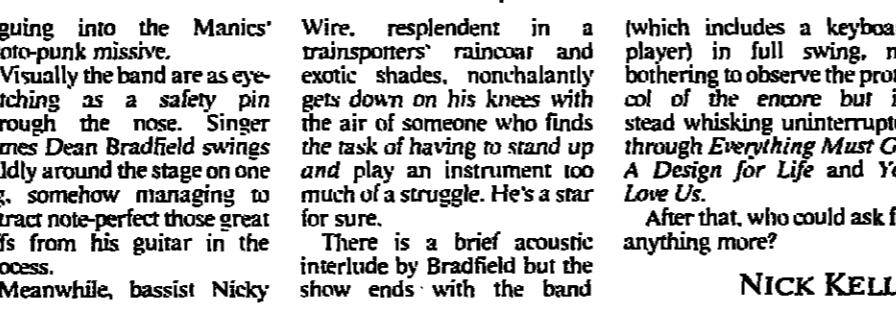
There is a brief acoustic interlude by Bradfield but the show ends with the band

which includes a keyboard player) in full swing, not bothering to observe the protocol of the encore but instead whisking uninterrupted through *Everything Must Go*, *A Design for Life* and *You Love Us*.

After that, who could ask for anything more?

NICK KELLY

A case of less is more: in bed with the Manic Street Preachers, minus Richey Edwards



CONCERTS: The Gabrieli Consort makes a slow start but a strong finish; the Virgin in song

Controlling Passion

St Matthew Passion

Barbican

THE St Matthew Passion by the Gabrieli Consort and Players on Easter Sunday was disadvantaged by the unsympathetic secular ambience of the Barbican. Characterised by swift tempos and light forces (nine singers in each chorus), it was not until Part Two that the full expressive range of the work began to register.

There could be no complaints about the orchestral playing. Recalcitrant period instruments such as the *oboe da caccia* (Katharine Spracklen and Alexandra Bellamy) were played with consummate skill, while Jonathan Manson's exquisite gambasolo in *Komm, süsses Kreuz* transfixed audience and participants alike.

The Gabrieli Consort's singing was

also exemplary, but with Charles Pott and Julian Clarkison in cameo roles, you would expect it to be.

What was less convincing was Part One was not Paul McCreesh's fast tempos and lilting dance rhythms but the fact that they stifled emotional expression. The opening chorus was shorn of its plangency, *Buss' und Reu* showed little sense of remorse, and few of the chromatic harmonies of *O Mensch, bewein* made any impact.

After the interval, however, there was a transformation. Robin Blaze fully exploited the expressive dissonances of the alto's *Ach, nun ist mein Jesus hin*, and Catherine Bott and Mark le Brocq also blossomed in the soprano and tenor solo. You might question the propriety of the Christus taking the bass solos but Peter Harvey as the supremely eloquent singer overcame such quibbles.

Mark Padmore could have found more drama in the role of the Evangelist, but like the performances as a whole, his reading was well thought through and superbly controlled.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Singing in tongues

New London Consort

Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE great 13th-century song collection, *Canigas de Santa María*, is an expression of the Marian devotion that dominated so much of the daily and cultural life in the Middle Ages. The New London Consort programme *The Miracles of Mary* marched a selection of cantigas with settings from the *Miracles de Nuestra-Dame* by the monk Gautier de Coincy (d 1233).

Seven centuries on, this music can still please the listener. The melodies are secular in origin and style, many of the songs being sacred contrafacta of existing tunes. But given that devotion to the Virgin plays such a small part in modern life, and given that nothing more than the texts and melodies of the songs survive (with much ambiguity as

to the rhythmic interpretation of them), how should we listen to them?

The NLC presented carefully thought-out, highly polished interpretations, with a small chorus for the refrain and solo voices (here soprano Julia Gooding and bass Simon Grant) for the verses, accompanied by medieval fiddle, lute, gittern, recorder, symphony and percussion. The overall effect is rich and colourful. The "improvised" instrumental preludes, interludes and postludes were dispatched with technical flair and imagination; particularly compelling on this occasion were Tom Furtwängler's extended lute soliloquies.

It would be fascinating to know how the group and its director Philip Pickett reached their decision as to what plays when and when. There is no doubt that their colourful arrangements and lively rhythmic drive make for a compelling musical experience, but the linguistic barrier remains. If the rhymes of medieval Provençal or Galician-Portuguese can be appreciated, it is much harder to follow the meaning – even with translations.

TESS KNIGHTON

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BEST COMEDY

London Coliseum

ENTERTAINMENTS

In William Hogarth's tercentenary year, Isabel Carlisle asks how the art-form he pioneered is faring in modern Britain

In the imaginary national performance table of great artists down the centuries, we British have tended to rate ourselves below average, while the Italians (with the Renaissance) and the French (with Impressionism) are at the top. It is a table that is no less potent for being unwritten. It was already present in the consciousness of the early 18th century. It still floats at the back of our minds today and adds an element of disbelief to the news that young British artists are enjoying a huge success... abroad.

Hogarth took the view that something had to be done about Britain's artistic inferiority complex, and launched a counter-attack. As the Grand Tourists bought up Italian Old Masters to decorate their country houses and had their portraits painted by Italian artists, Hogarth took it upon himself to found a British school of art. His new style of

painting rejected the classical mythology and landscapes of Italy, and borrowed the idea of low-life scenes from the Dutch. It took real people as its subject matter and real life as their setting.

As we know, he attacked the political corruption and social dislocation around him, and for his weapon he again rejected a foreign tradition, this time caricature (as practised by Leonardo da Vinci), and developed an entirely new language of visual satire. It has been admired and adapted by artists here and abroad ever since, as three new London exhibitions demonstrate.

Caricature is as ephemeral as the individuals whom it exaggerates in order to deflate. Satire, which

addresses the broader picture of human types and human failings, endures. This is one reason for Hogarth's ability to communicate across the centuries. Among the many exhibitions celebrating the tercentenary of Hogarth's birth this year is "The Rake's Progress: from Hogarth to Hockney" at Sir John Soane's Museum (until August 31). The depictions of latterday rakes by artists inspired by Hogarth's series of eight paintings underline Hogarth's influence, yet none of them has the acerbity and pathos of the originals.

The violent anger that Hogarth felt, the mission to open the eyes of his contemporaries to the society in which he and they lived, is the *sine qua non* of the successful

satirist. It surfaced in the reign of George III with Gillray, in Louis-Philippe's France with Daumier, and again in Weimar Germany with George Grosz. An exhibition of Grosz's devastating visual critique of Berlin society and politics between the World Wars has just opened at the Royal Academy (until June 8).

Grosz was a great admirer of Hogarth. Prints by Hogarth, and Gillray, hung on the walls of Grosz's Berlin apartment (and then his home on Long Island after 1933, when he left Germany). However, it took the First World War to politicise Grosz. Shortly after his release from a military mental asylum in 1917, he started on a reprise of one of Hogarth's sub-

jects. "I am," he wrote, "painting a large picture of Hell — a *Gin Lane* of grotesque corpses and lunatics; there's a lot going on — Old Nick himself is riding on the slanting coffin through the picture out towards the left; on the right a young man is throwing up, vomiting on the canvas all the beautiful illusions of youth... A teeming multitude of possessed human beings."

Unlike Hogarth, Grosz was prosecuted for the content of his pictures. He aimed for an art that was "tough, brutal, transparent, an art that hurts". The portfolio of prints *Gott mit Uns*, attacking the military, was exhibited by Grosz at the First International Dada Fair and the lithographic plates were

subsequently confiscated. Fifty-two images from the *Ecc Homo* series were also banned by the authorities on account of their sexual explicitness.

By way of contrast, a small exhibition of work by 13 of our contemporary satirists — at the Royal Academy until May 6 — shows them to be more comfortable with humorous observation than with devastating dissection. No wonder politicians buy originals to hang in their loos. In the best sequences, such as Ralph Steadman's *Politicians* (left) or Peter Brooke's *Nature Notes*, one is struck by the concentration on individuals rather than types: they deliberately distance the observer from the subject. The genius of

Hogarth's *Rake's Progress* or Grosz's *Ecc Homo* lay rather in presenting us with scenes in which we can imagine ourselves as the protagonist. It is the difference between caricature and satire.

Without Hogarth and Grosz, our idea of visual satire would be merely graphic illustration. These two artists took satire to new heights, and the fact that their chosen means of communication was art, and their aim was to educate through satire, meant that they addressed a huge combined audience of lovers of high art and devotees of prints (in Hogarth's time), pamphlets and journals (in Grosz's). Like most great art, theirs changed some lives, but not much else — certainly not the politics or morals of their societies. Its most profound impact may well have been on posterity. We cannot imagine Hanoverian London or Weimar Berlin without Hogarth and Grosz.

Oh dear, where can the satire be?

Vilifying teachers will not solve the problems in our schools

A pamphlet from the Social Affairs Unit will today denounce teachers: this time for turning children into "thought police" who challenge the "perfectly law-abiding" activities of their parents on environmental grounds. This is not an April Fool. Early comments suggest that the pamphlet's authors genuinely object to children being permitted to question the domestic or social status quo. If they criticise the car, read tins and go "Yuk" at teak furniture, then this is portrayed as a Bad Thing. We don't want teachers putting ideas in kids' heads, do we?

Well, to do, I want my children to come out of school full of awkward questions. I want them to breathe a bracing, argumentative air from outside the stale bubble of family and neighbourhood. If I disagree, I can always argue back. Admittedly, there are a few solid ideals I should like them to perch on after their flights of controversy, but there's not much value in the coming back if they never learn to fly in the first place. Better a good rousing family argument about unleaded petrol than a dull-eyed child who never doubts Daddy Knows Best.

But never mind the eco-battlefield: maybe I am naive, and the Social Affairs Unit is right to fear an uncontrollable plague of stroppy little Swamps, tunnelling under all that L-reg drivers hold most dear. It is the wider educational question that torments me, and has done so for the past week of professional conferences and sweeping political promises from all sides to ban strikes, inaugurate sun-bins, sack teachers, ballot parents and issue Ofsted with death-ray guns.

This big question, too big for politics and by the sound of the speeches, far too big for the vindictive scroffs at the NUT, is what are teachers for? Peter Smith, of the more dignified Association of Teachers and Lecturers, came closest to asking it last week when he daringly said that teachers should be more than "curriculum shelf-stackers in competing educational Spar groceries".

It was as this newspaper noted yesterday, a conciliatory speech: otherwise Mr Smith

might have added more similes. He could have said that teachers did not sign up to be stock-taking clerks, ticking off the measurable skills of their charges in neat little boxes to submit to number-crunchers at the Department for Education. Or that reception teachers are more than bank clerks, charged with counting and checking nursery vouchers for forgery by rubbing them (as recommended) between forefinger and thumb. He might even have ventured the dangerous theory that a headteacher has better things to do than forever rewriting the school's mission statement with newer buzz-words and flattering the vanity of client parents.

He could have remarked that testing is all very well, but you don't fatten a pig by weighing it. Or that "parent power" is a confidence trick that causes nothing but false hopes, bad temper and bureaucratic chaos.

It can't work: firstly for the obvious reason that good schools do not have elastic walls, and secondly because most of us use schools for

only a very short span of years, are passionately partisan about our own 24 children, and therefore make dangerous custodians of the welfare of other people's. Mr Major wants to let parents "trigger ballots to extend selection in their schools". For heaven's sake, why? So that a cabal of 1997 parents can pull up the ladder behind them? And why fay about with all this stuff anyway, while the central question is never asked? What are schoolteachers for?

Until we decide, we can neither judge nor recruit them properly. Are they policemen or warders, keeping the most disaffected and damaged children under control in groups larger than any policeman would expect to master? Are they sticking-plaster on the wounds of society, instilling moral virtue where everyone else has failed? If not, then let us hope that Labour's leaders really mean it when they promise to increase referral units for difficult pupils. (But it will cost them, which is why so many such units were closed in the first place.)

Neither should teachers be what Mr Smith called "shelf-stackers" for the National Curriculum. Admittedly, this new craze for uniformity was provoked by a dangerous drop in standards in some schools: but the sledgehammer fell on many perfectly sound nuts. Merely listening to what HMI Inspectors of Schools have said over 30 years would have enabled the bad schools to be sorted out. Instead, the absurdly complicated National Curriculum of the 1990s was slapped down like a pastry-cutter on good and bad alike. While it may have improved the bad schools, it did incalculable harm to lots of good ones.

We have lost hundreds of teachers to frustration, early retirement, and plain stress. The Dearing report simplified the curriculum, but it remains prescriptive, fiddly and bureaucratic. Real teachers expend a great deal of ingenuity working out how to fit real education into its crammed little boxes. I took a Norfolk wherry the other day, miraculously, squeeze in the magic and the fun and the wonder between the ruled government lines.

Good teachers are magic. They always were. They open

doors to unsuspected glittering worlds. Ask any adult what they value from school and it will not be a certificate but a teacher. I straw-pollled and got: "My chemistry teacher, because what he really taught was the satisfaction of logical thought"; "My English teacher, because when I was 13 he made me believe my idea of King Lear might be right"; "My Maths teacher, who got sick of trying to make us get Pythagoras on a summer afternoon and took us down to the beach and drew it in the sand, and suddenly we got the point. Apparently he didn't have permission to take the minibus, but we all liked Maths after that. He was on our side."

Last week a documentary followed the work of Michel Thomas, a hero of the Resistance turned language teacher to the Hollywood stars. He was given a group of 17-year-old rejects from a school French department, and taught them for a week by his idiosyncratic method of throwing out desks and homework and holding their attention by

force of personality. By Friday they were happily constructing complex sentences with the prepositions in the right place, and laughing with triumph.

Mr Thomas told me later: "Learning is natural. All young creatures do it. Think how boys know all the details of football teams." Their usual teacher said that she had forgotten how much the actual mastering of a skill could satisfy children, because of the emphasis on 'suitable' learning materials. A sense of excitement, of mastery, of cooperation and glee pervaded the experiment.

But where is the glee in our increasingly sour, competitive system? Michel Thomas throws out desks and tests for symbolic reasons, because he says tension and anxiety are the enemies of learning. But our education system is increasingly based on a worship of tension and anxiety (what else are tests and tables?), and on a synchronised striving for an artistically defined status quo. Did we want it to be like this?

friends were unreliable. He finishes the anecdote with a tidy dismissal: "I have seen little or nothing of her since, and retain mixed impressions."

Ten to one

MEMBERS of the British Field Sports Society are so busy on their hobbyhorse about the right to ride to hounds that they seem to have forgotten how to count.

Last month, the society's chief ex-

ecutive, Robin Hanbury-Tenison, stated that more than a million people had written to Tony Blair to lobby for hunting — far more than in any previous campaign. Others of his ilk claimed that Blair had received more than 500,000 pro-hunting cards.

But numerate and diligent sources acquainted with Mr Blair's office insist that the numbers don't tally. Just 43,020 cards have actually been received at the Leader of the Opposition's office, and the League Against Cruel Sports has notched up a small victory.

Striking back

LABOUR'S decision to abandon a £1 million negative advertising campaign, reported in yesterday's Times, and to plump instead for a positive message, has inspired one reader to call for the advertising standards of old.

He draws my attention to Labour's "New Umpire" poster from the 1929 election — the year after voting rights for men and women were equalised — in which a female umpire with the words "Woman Voter" on her scarf gives a flailing, pipe-smoking Baldwin run out by Labour's Ramsay MacDonald.

The scene brings to mind the

England of warm beer and idle summers which John Major so craves. But sleaze was nothing new even in those days, as shown by the account in John Lucas' *Budapest 1900* of a working visit by 20 or so Liberal MPs to Budapest in 1907. Apparently, after their final meeting, the MPs popped into the local brothel, leaving the new, reformist Hungarian government to pick up the tab.

P.H.S

Be seated

A PILOT of the Queen's Flight who was carpeted two years ago for allowing the Prince of Wales to take control of his aircraft and crash-land on the Island of Islay has taken his revenge.

Squadron Leader Graham Laurie took it on the nose when an official Ministry of Defence report blamed him for the incident in 1994. Now he has blabbed about the Windsors' behaviour aboard his aeroplane. Despite continuing to fly for No 32, the Royal Squadron, he alleges that members of Royal Family regularly

disregard safety regulations. In an article for *RAF News* on the perils of being a royal pilot, Laurie says members of the Royal Family do not wear their seatbelts when they should. On his recent visit to the Ukraine with the Prince of Wales, he arrived in good time but was fearful of being delayed on the runway when he taxied in.

"You must never attempt to speed up" at this stage, he writes, "because, despite the 'fasten seatbelt signs', as soon as the aircraft lands, if you are a member of the Royal Household, it would appear



to be mandatory to stand up." Laurie added that he took \$100,000 in new notes with him on the flight. "The officer in charge of accounts nearly had a heart attack... As it is, it's a fistful of US dollars that you need, or you do not get fuel for your flight plan processed."

Buckingham Palace has taken a dim view of his article; and Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Graydon, the Chief of the Air Staff, has made it known that revelations about royal passengers cannot be tolerated.

Thatcher invited him to dinner just after her election triumph, and he told her of his bitterness. "I want you to know how hurt and angry I was and am at the way you have behaved to me," he said, before warning her that some of her



Charles's plane: was someone distracting the pilot?



SILENCE OVER EUROPE

Time to tell the electorate about the greatest issue of all

After the false starts, the distractions and the fringe-of-battle skirmishes, the campaign proper begins. This week the manifestos are published; politicians and press begin the familiar routine of daily morning press conferences and tours of marginal seats in battle buses. The question of sleaze may finally begin to give way to detailed debate about policy. Meanwhile the party leaders will continue to conspire to keep the biggest issue off the agenda.

We refer, of course, to Europe and, in particular, to the single currency. Whoever wins the election will have to decide within a matter of months whether to attempt to join EMU in 1999. Should the first entry wave go ahead at that time John Major cannot say what he would like to say — that a Tory administration would not enter the single currency in the next Parliament — because his deputy, Michael Heseltine, and his Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will not let him. Tony Blair is, if that is possible, even more opaque. He has already cited "formidable obstacles" to Britain's joining the first wave, but it is not clear from his pronouncements whether he is for or against the principle of joining later.

Some, in an attempt to gain the pro-integration vote, Mr Blair seems to be saying that he thinks a single currency is desirable, necessary and inevitable; and that, if it goes ahead, Britain must be part of it. At other times, he rehearses the economic arguments that make a single currency an impossibility without huge transfers of money across borders — until, that is, the economies of Europe have converged so neatly that the Continent resembles a country in all but name.

The parties' equivocations about British membership of EMU are not the only worry. For, if Mr Blair is right about the economic absurdity of imposing a single currency on disparate member states (which he is), then he ought to be deliberating about how to stop this disastrous plan even if Britain remains outside it. For, according to his impeccable argument, the weaker states that join EMU are going to end up with

immovably high levels of unemployment unless the richer states are prepared to subsidise them to a far greater extent than they do or are ever likely to do.

Not only, therefore, is a single currency on the Continent likely to lead to slow growth and poor export markets for Britain. It could also create dangerous social dislocation in the weaker countries and taxpayer revolts in the stronger ones. A more effective recipe for the rise of nationalism and the break-up of the EU could hardly be designed.

So what is the new Prime Minister going to do about this? Britain holds the presidency of the EU in the first half of next year when the critical decisions about EMU have to be taken. There are signs all over the Continent, from France to Germany to Italy to the Netherlands, that politicians and voters have cold feet about the project. The nearer it comes, the harder are the facts. None of the prospective members wants to lose face by asking for an indefinite postponement. Britain, which has nothing to lose by doing so, could lead those nations that can see folly and want to grasp this last chance to avoid it before it is too late.

Mr Major has lost most of his credibility in Europe through a series of misjudgments culminating in last summer's beef war. Mr Blair might be better placed. He is known not to share the visceral anti-European sentiments of many Tories. If he were to caution the other states on the dangers of EMU, he could not be misinterpreted as doing so merely to mollify his party. Unlike Mr Major, he is relatively free to speak his mind. But he has so far failed to do so.

This is unfair to voters: and it is also wrong for Europe. There is still the chance of building an alliance against this misguided lurch to a single currency. If Mr Blair really believes that constructive engagement is a possibility for Britain in Europe, then he should start talking about it now. To what end will he use this engagement? Both the British electorate and the EU member states deserve to know what the man who wants to be Prime Minister next month intends to do with his power.

SHAMEFUL ISOLATION

Boycotting Israel will not help the peace process

The meeting of the Arab League in Cairo has been portrayed as a victory for the radicals. In truth, it was a triumph for the reactionaries. Those forces, led by Syria, which have never been reconciled to the peace process exploited the present tense atmosphere in the region to ram through their preferred alternative. Those measures included the suspension of all normalisation efforts and the restoration of the economic boycott against Israel.

The stance taken by the 22 foreign ministers effectively turns back the clock to before the present peace process started with the Madrid conference of October, 1991. It ignores all the considerable progress that has been painstakingly made since that point. It wraps itself in the symbols of an era when the Arab world considered itself in permanent conflict with an Israeli state that had no right to exist within any borders.

In a curious inversion of language and logic, those states who pressed hardest for a renewed isolation of Israel claimed their intention was to place the peace process back on track. Syria's Foreign Minister, Farouq al-Shara, argued that the boycott call would "exert influence" on Israeli public opinion and therefore the Netanyahu Government. As public opinion is not a factor that receives much prominence in the regime of President Assad, Mr al-Shara might be forgiven for misinterpreting its likely impact in Israel. Threats and blackmail are more likely to rally opinion behind the Prime Minister than lead to a clamour for concessions.

The Arab League resolutions constituted an attack on the United States as well as Israel. The vote came after another mission

by the American mediator, Dennis Ross, had failed to produce a summit between Mr Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat. For his troubles, Mr Ross was denounced by Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political affairs department, as a "biased Zionist" whose trip had been deliberately designed to scupper the peace process. These were shameful comments that should be disowned by Mr Arafat.

The militant attitude adopted in Cairo is all the more unfortunate because there have been some signs of restored co-operation between Israel and the Palestine National Authority. The riots that have raged throughout the West Bank over the past week would have been much worse had it not been for the efforts of the Palestinian police. Mr Arafat has at least shown rhetorical restraint since the Tel Aviv suicide bombing. The admirable reaction from King Hussein of Jordan after one of his soldiers slaughtered seven Israeli school children has made a lasting and positive impression. The preconditions for a revival of dialogue may yet fall into place.

All that, though, is dependent on trust. If further terrorist outrages follow the Arab League meeting then the Netanyahu Government will regard the two events as directly connected and respond accordingly. The Cairo communiqué has signalled that many Arab states regard the peace process solely as a forum for the capitulation of the Israeli Government to their demands. Such an approach will only isolate those governments from the real benefits the entire Middle East would receive from a genuine peace settlement.

THE LAST TRAIN

May we never have to be nostalgic for BR

The last passenger train operated by British Rail, a night sleeper from Euston, is due to pull into Fort William at 10.45 this morning, taking to its Highland terminus almost 50 years of state stewardship of Britain's railway network. As the bands pipe in a new dawn for ScotRail, the last of the 25 franchises to pass into private hands, some across the country may quietly mourn the death of BR, that much mocked transport conglomerate that somehow, by the end of its troubled life, found a way into the nation's heart.

Despite the curled sandwiches, the stewed tea, the leaves on the line and the insanity of its trade unions, BR was never quite as bad as the satirists loved to insist. Indeed, albeit at colossal public cost, it can claim to have left the railways in better shape than it found them. When the British Transport Commission took control of the Big Four on January 1, 1948, it inherited a network that was almost bankrupt. Some 700,000 people and 8,000 horses worked on the railways, operating a fleet of 20,459 locomotives, many of them already museum pieces. The network covered 20,000 miles, almost twice its present size, and barely a town in Britain did not boast a station. The average railwayman earned £7 a week.

The network and workforce were drastically slimmed down. Modernisation,

launched in 1955 with a £1,200 million budget, foreshadowed the end of the days when there was time for an Agatha Christie, a chat with fellow passengers and a full dinner as the express pounded to Penzance. Night fell for steam when the last engine left Swindon works in 1960; the haunting chug was last heard eight years later.

Like the nation, however, BR rallied. InterCity was eventually so successful that it dispensed with all subsidies in 1988 and was copied across the Continent. The InterCity 125, after some queasy experiments with a failed tilting train, was followed by the 225. BR embraced new concepts: profit centres, sectorisation and market share.

By now there was nostalgia for the original British Railways: the regional liveries, clanking goods wagons, Edwardian transport hotels, morning tea in the old sleepers, ill-fitting uniforms and yes, even the surly porters, erratic timetables, grime, smoke and missed connections. Now the entire history of BR joins pre-nationalisation travel in nostalgic formaldehyde. Welcome, again, to the days of private companies. An even bigger welcome to a regulator to step in where services are cancelled, fares structures labyrinthine and through ticketing available to only the brave. BR, as your sleeper comes to a halt in Fort William, we do not want to miss you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Conflict on law of medical consent

From Lord Ashbourne and Mr Gerard Wright, QC

Sir, Arrangements have been made for ambassadors to the Council of Europe to attend at Oviedo in Spain on April 4 and there sign, on behalf of their respective countries, a Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. The convention has been drafted under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

Part of this convention is in direct conflict with a basic principle of our law. Our law does not permit any person unable to give a valid consent to be subjected to any medical procedure which does not have the potential to benefit directly the person subjected to it. We do not permit unconsenting people to be used as human guinea pigs.

However, Article 17(2) of the convention does permit medical procedures and research of this kind. The convention has never been debated in Parliament. It has never been the subject of scrutiny by a select committee. This convention will conflict with a basic human right which our law protects and respects. If HMG is still considering whether to adhere to it, we strongly urge that it should not do so — as, we believe, is the view, for example, of the German Government.

Yours faithfully,
ASHBOURNE,
GERARD WRIGHT
Alert (Against Legalised Euthanasia — Research and Teaching),
27 Walpole Street, SW3.
March 19.

Mandelson replies to Rees-Mogg

From Mr Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool (Labour)

Sir, In his article "The sleaze campaign disgraces Labour too" (March 21), William Rees-Mogg scales new peaks in the history of unreason.

His overall "case" is that the press is concentrating on an anti-Tory sleaze campaign on two fronts, sex and cash for questions: because the Tories are losing on both fronts at the same time, it must be a single campaign; because the Tories are suffering and Labour is gaining, Labour must be promoting the campaign and I am personally responsible because I am seen as "the great spin doctor since Goebbels" and that this sleaze campaign will inevitably be seen as my "masterpiece".

Even Dr Goebbels would have concluded that if that was the best he could do he would be letting the black arts down.

What is Rees-Mogg's evidence in support of his "case"? He declares that "plainly" the sleaze campaign "has not been masterminded by Tory spin doctors", for the Tory party is the target. That leads him to question "is it, in fact, a Labour campaign?" He also asserts that "the newspapers that have carried the key stories support Labour", but then he says "there is no conspiracy between those newspapers". So the best he can do is assert that "the Labour Party is in continuous contact with all of these newspapers". To which, even if true, there is one response, so what?

Finally, he turns his searchlight on Scotland with the question "Can one

suppose that Labour had no prior knowledge that the Hirst and Stewart stories were going to be published?" The innuendo that Labour was informing the press is laughable. We had absolutely nothing to do with either of those two stories and have said nothing except to express sympathy for the individuals concerned.

Labour condemns cash for questions. Those responsible have brought confidence in the standards of public life to an all-time low. That is a legitimate election issue.

Another legitimate issue is why the Government chose not to give Sir Gordon Downey a deadline for his report which he had to meet to ensure publication before the general election.

Labour agrees with those Conservatives who believe that Mr Neil Hamilton, MP, should go now, along with other Tories in the same position.

Let me emphasise we have had nothing whatsoever to do with stories concerning the private lives of Tory MPs or officials. If Rees-Mogg has any evidence to the contrary, he should present it. In the meantime, it is insulting to portray newspapers as marionettes in a media show promoted by Labour. It is also, simply, not true.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MANDELSON
(Labour Election
Campaign Manager),
John Smith House
150 Walworth Road, SE17.
March 31.

Future standards for cinema and TV

From the General Secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, Brenda Maddox (Media and marketing, March 26) does well to highlight a very real problem of determining acceptable standards for the future in television and film offered for the nation's entertainment.

That the British Board of Film Classification certified *Crash* after taking legal advice (letters, March 21) points to a deficiency in the Obscene Publications Act, long ago identified by this association, and demonstrates, again, that the board's primary interest is the film industry rather than the public good.

The scenes described from *Crash*, by any interpretation, fail to meet the statutory requirements on "good taste and decency" as set out in the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The truth is that standards have declined because those whom Parliament has appointed to regulate such matters have, in our opinion, failed in their duties.

TV programmes and films are not the result of blind chance: programme makers set out with deliberate intent and are shielded by the broadcasting authorities who appear not to act for the public good, according to their statutory duties, but for the narrow interests of those who seek to overthrow, incrementally, standards of decency in the name of art and freedom of expression.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. BEYER,
General Secretary,
National Viewers' and
Listeners' Association,
All Saints House,
High Street, Colchester, Essex.
March 26.

From Mr Roy Martin

Sir, Mr Peter Noonan asserts in his letter that the public expects film censors to protect the mores and values of British society.

I am a member of that public when I visit the cinema and I do not expect censors to do any such thing. Furthermore, I do not regard our mores and values as so wonderful that they stand in need of protection — it is more important to question them.

I certainly don't wish to be "protected" in what I choose to see by a quango like the British Board of Film Classification.

Yours faithfully,
ROY MARTIN,
4/28 Helmsdale Close,
Reading, Berkshire.
March 22.

German map auction

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, One German map of England came here in a most extraordinary way (letter, March 24) and hangs in a farmhouse not far from here, with glass on both sides of the frame.

My friend, the farmer, was a tank commander and one morning was handed a map for his part in the advance across Europe. The British field cartographers had used captured German papers, *printine* on the unused side; when he turned the map over my friend found his own farm and nearby village, clearly part of a planned invasion of East Anglia.

His emotions on seeing his own field accurately drawn can hardly be imagined.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. BOLT,
11 Nelson Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
March 24.

Soaking up science

From Mrs Anne Carman

Sir, The two scientists (report, March 21) who calculated their comparative wetness when walking or running to find shelter from the rain have failed to take account of an important consideration.

When confronted with a sudden downpour I have always immediately weighed the loss of personal dignity involved in a sudden scuttle for shelter against the kudos of the stiff upper lip and the refusal to acknowledge the inconvenience of a little dampness.

Furthermore, as a sturdy Scot, I have always taken issue with my Sassenach friends over their interpretation of any precipitation: what they call drizzle we call *haar*, what they call steady rain we call drizzle, and what they call a downpour we find "a wee bit damp".

Yours etc,
ANNE CARMAN,
7 Bedford Court,
Mowbray Road, SE19.
March 27.

From Mr Mycal Miller

Sir, I am sure we are all very grateful to the scientists who have proved it is better to run for shelter than to walk.

Perhaps they could now turn their attention to the vexing question of the apparent causal relationship between forgetting to take an umbrella and the likelihood of precipitation.

Yours faithfully,
MYCAL MILLER,
20 Hamlet Square, NW2.
March 27.

Preserving archives

From the Chairman of the Society of Archivists

Sir, Professor Sir Graham Hills (letter, March 25) puzzles me: is he really advocating the destruction of many of our records?

One of the skills of an archivist is to preserve only those documents which will be valuable for historical research. Professor Hills can be assured that we destroy more material than we keep — probably more than many historians would wish.

Yours faithfully,
KATE THOMPSON,
Chairman,
Society of Archivists,
Information House,
20-24 Old Street, EC1.
March 27.

Joy of housework

From Mrs Naomi Gould

Sir, Just who are these women, described in the article about the pleasures of housework (March 24), who so selfishly insist on cleaning their own homes?

Personally, I intend to go on creating employment for my deserving cleaning lady, thereby selflessly denying myself the joys of dusting, scrubbing and vacuum cleaning my house.

Yours faithfully,
NAOMI GOULD,
The Coppice,
22 Downes Road, Epsom, Surrey.
March 24.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.



OBITUARIES

ELLA MAILLART



A 1935 Times map of the route taken by Maillart and Fleming; the photograph shows them near the end of their trek

Ella Maillart, traveller, died at her home in Chandolin, Switzerland, on March 27 aged 94. She was born in Geneva on February 20, 1903.

Ella Maillart lived, with great zest, a rather vagabond life. An indefatigable traveller, author and photographer, she came, inevitably, to be regarded as something of a Swiss counterpart to Freya Stark. Although without the latter's educational and social advantages, not to mention her natural flair as a writer, she possessed a similar determination to see for herself how other countries and their populations lived and thought. During her journeys from the 1920s onwards, mainly in Asia and mostly made alone, sometimes on horseback or on foot, she rejoiced at finding places with "people happy, not yet corrupted by money".

In 1935, as a special correspondent for *Le Petit Parisien*, she joined forces with Peter Fleming, brother of Ian Fleming and special correspondent of *The Times*, in a trip that took them along the Silk Road into Chinese Turkestan, then the object of Russian attention. On the advice of a

Swedish archaeologist, Eric Nörling, who had been forced to flee the area they avoided frontier posts by following a route which took them, on foot or on ponies, via northern Tibet through inhospitable desert and high mountains.

For months neither their papers nor their families knew where they were.

Fleming gave a vivid account of the experience in a long series of articles in *The Times* under the title *Hidden Asia*. Maillart's own recollections of the 3,500-mile trip over intimidating terrain followed in her book *Forbidden Journey: From Peking to Kashgar*. Both authors modestly played down the rigours of their trek, Fleming wryly describing it as "an escape rather than an exploit" and "an undeservedly successful experiment in travelling light".

Three years earlier, also without a visa and travelling alone, Maillart had gone to Soviet Turkestan, then in the throes of attempts at "westernisation". On being asked — as she frequently was — how she came to be travelling unaccompanied, her customary reply was "I'm on my way to join my husband." (She never married.) Crossing Kirghiz territory she reached Tien Shan with

hard up and frequently on a diet of porridge to save money, learning English lessons and trying to learn Russian in talking to the many refugees who were driving cabs.

She moved on to Moscow, borrowing the money for the fare from the author Jack London and his wife. For five months she stayed at an eight-room apartment, home of Countess Tolstoy but now accommodating an additional five families, before crossing the Caucasus on foot with a party of Russians. A book, *Among Young Russians*, followed; with it she began to become established as a writer, though she herself always claimed to find writing a chore and described her work as essentially testimony rather than literature.

Other books dealt with Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan.

And by now she was also

sufficiently proficient with a cine camera to make documentaries.

She was ten when introduced by her father to skiing, at which she excelled. Not long afterwards the family moved from central Geneva to lake-side Creux-de-Genthod with its small-boat harbour. The mountains and sailing became lifelong passions, the latter taking her from Swiss lakes to the Channel and to the Mediterranean. By the age of 20 she was recognised as a competent yacht crew member and navigator. Seven years of this provided material for *Vagabond of the Seas*.

After that came Berlin, where she was particularly



various gurus had to say. On going to interview Nehru, she was much surprised to see him emerge from his office brandishing his visiting card and extending his arms in welcome with the words "So you are the Ella Maillart?" Her books on India were published first in London, well

before they appeared in French.

In the end she returned to Switzerland, though, with restless energy, she remained until around 80 to lead parties on lecture tours to some of her best-loved lands.

She was an admirable and endearing lecturer, and her

villages in the Alps. While detesting cities with their concrete and cement and traffic pollution, she had generally been persuaded to come down to Geneva for the worst of the winter. But this year she remained at Chandolin, the place where she had found "this profound peace".

EDWARD PURCELL



Edward Purcell,
American Nobel
Laureate in Physics, died
on March 7 aged 84. He
was born on August 30,
1912.

FOR his work on nuclear magnetic resonance Edward Purcell shared the 1952 Nobel Prize in Physics with Felix Bloch of Stanford University. His research made possible new insights into chemical structures, and led to the development of imaging techniques which have brought far-reaching benefits in fields ranging from radio astronomy to medical diagnosis.

In his speech accepting the prize Purcell spoke of his pleasure in a discovery that

made possible a new way of looking at the universe, enabling the world to be seen "for a moment as something rich and strange".

Edward Mills Purcell was

born in Taylorville, Illinois. He won a scholarship to Purdue University, Illinois, where he studied electrical engineering, graduating in 1933.

Purcell's gift for mathematics and physics was quickly recognised by his physics professor, K. Lark-Horowitz, who invited him to take part in a research project on electron diffraction while he was still an undergraduate. Lark-Horowitz then recommended him for an exchange studentship in Germany, and he spent a year studying physics at the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe under Professor Weizel.

On his return to the United States Purcell moved to Harvard on the detection of atomic magnetism.

In 1945 Purcell returned to Harvard, where he had been an instructor in physics from 1938 to 1940, as an associate professor. In 1948 he became associate editor of the leading theoretical journal, *Physical Review*, and in 1949 was appointed to a full professorship in physics at Harvard.

He held his chair until retirement in 1960, and was the Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University from 1950 to 1971.

Working with R.V. Pound and H.C. Torrey, Purcell observed nuclear magnetic resonance on December 15, 1945.

They announced their observation simultaneously with that of nuclear induction by Felix Bloch and others at Stanford University. Purcell and Bloch received the joint award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1952.

Purcell's research on radar also fuelled his interest in radio astronomy, and his detection of radiation from interstellar space at the hydrogen hyperfine frequency of 1421 MHz was another experiment worthy of a Nobel Prize; his research was of enormous value to radio astronomers attempting to map galaxies.

More speculatively, Purcell was always intrigued by the possibility of radio communication with other civilisations, if they existed, and by the question of what frequency the aliens might use; he was dismissive of space travel, however.

Purcell gave the Hallé Lecture in Oxford in 1983, and was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in 1989. He received honorary doctorates from Purdue University and Washington University in St Louis, and a National Medal of Science in 1979. He was the author of standard works on microwaves, electricity and magnetism.

Purcell died after a fall at his home in Cambridge Massachusetts. He is survived by his wife Beth (nee Busser), and by their two sons.

FRITZ SPIELMANN

Fritz Spielmann, composer, died on March 21 aged 90. He was born in Vienna on November 20, 1906.

FRITZ SPIELMANN

was one

of

Austria

's

most

successful

musical

exports

to

the

United

States

in

the

late

1930s

his

hasty

arrival

in

New

York

was

hardly

a

matter

of

choice

but

the

roots

he

quickly

put

down

on

Broadway

and

in

Hollywood

and

in

particular

MGM

beckoned

and

in

1944

he

left

for

the

West

Coast

His

first

film

Aibileen Town

(1946)

was

proclaimed

by

critics

to

be

the

best

musical

Western

since

Oklahoma!

Billy Wilder, who had known Spielmann in their shared Vienna days, smoothed his path wherever possible. Working with various lyricists, Spielmann wrote songs for *Luxury Liner* and *Big City* (both 1949), in *The Good Old Summertime*, which starred Judy Garland (1949), and a decade later, for Elvis Presley in *Girls! Girls! Girls!* (1962).

By the early 1940s Spielmann, now calling himself Fred, was established. Bing

Crosby

recorded his *Shepherd*

Serenade

in 1941 and the show

The Lady Says Yes

was

performed

on

Broadway

three

hundred

times.

Hollywood, and in particular MGM, beckoned, and in 1944 he left for the West Coast. His first film, *Aibileen Town* (1946) was proclaimed by critics to be the best musical Western since *Oklahoma!*

Billy Wilder, who had known Spielmann in their shared Vienna days, smoothed his path wherever possible. Working with various lyricists, Spielmann wrote songs for *Luxury Liner* and *Big City* (both 1949), in *The Good Old Summertime*, which starred Judy Garland (1949), and a decade later, for Elvis Presley in *Girls! Girls! Girls!* (1962).

Back in New York in 1973, he had the satisfaction of seeing Marie Osmond make a monster success out of his *Paper Roses*, a country and western standard which had first been recorded back in 1960 in three different versions by Anita Bryant, Maureen Evans and the Kaye Sisters. In 1978 he had another hit show on Broadway with *The Singing Waiter* in *The Singing Waiter*, starring Walter Matthau in the role of Scrooge. An animated film was made of the musical.

His last hit was

the jazz singer Shirley Horn recorded *You Won't Forget Me*, and topped the American charts.

Like many

of

the

900

songs

that

Spielmann

had

composed

this

had

been

produced

for

a

film

made

forty

Major gives new sleaze warning

■ John Major issued a new warning to Neil Hamilton and other MPs involved in sleaze allegations that he will back their expulsion from Parliament and the Conservative Party if charges against them are upheld.

However, the Prime Minister, in a letter to all constituency party chairmen, made clear that he would accept their choice of general election candidate — even when there were unresolved questions hanging over them. **Pages 1, 2**

America's poorest suffer aid cuts

■ Panic has seized American immigration and welfare offices as tough Republican-backed welfare reforms signed by President Clinton in August take effect, denying government support to hundreds of thousands of people including legal immigrants and single, fit childless adults. **Page 1**

Sunny Easter

Britain enjoyed the warmest Easter since 1989 this year, and in many areas the sunniest since the Second World War — a climax to the third warmest March since records began in 1699. **Page 1**

End of the line

Hundreds of rail enthusiasts converged on stations in Edinburgh and Glasgow clutching souvenir tickets and glasses of free champagne to mark the last public sector train journeys. **Page 1**

Scouts tragedy

A Scout leader who survived a rock fall that killed two companions said that they were relaxing by a camp fire when a sandstone ledge collapsed. **Page 3**

£1 mansion

One of the finest Elizabethan houses in Wales was sold for £1. Rather larger is a £250,000 tag to move a nearby pig-breeding unit. **Page 5**

£3bn in plate

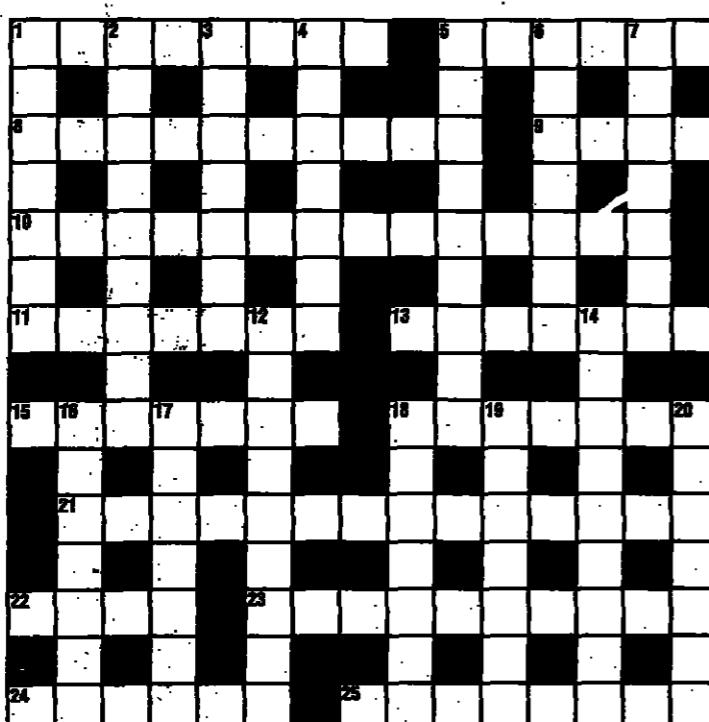
The Church of England's assets have soared to a record £3 billion after Church Commissioners recovered their Eighties' property speculation losses. **Page 6**

Squadron honoured

The RAF's 273 Squadron, which played a crucial role in Japan's defeat in the Second World War, has achieved official recognition more than fifty years after being disbanded. **Page 8**

Swampy sets sights on Westminster

■ Swampy — alias Daniel Hooper — abseiled from his tunnel entrance 50ft up an embankment on the site of Manchester Airport's planned second runway to unfurl his "Don't Fly, Don't Drive" election manifesto. The protester aims to contest the Labour stronghold of Blackley, in north Manchester, for the Never Mind the Ballots Party. **Page 1**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,442**ACROSS**

- Extremely strong players joining club (4)
- Language Miss Languish has a name for (6)
- Mentor used in new form with great effect (10)
- Cousin without any potential for growth (6)
- Pack, colony, headed by Christian's followers (8)
- As result of that, beer is brewed, within reason (7)
- Cider girl put in empty car for crook (7)
- American colonist's headless bust held in disrepute (7)
- Get a sentence firmly in to testify in Jersey or Guernsey (7)
- Reindeer type drove one mad one way (14)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,441

CATAKYSER C PER
LUE E GRANAHAN
FLAMMATE HILLIN
FERN R GRANAHAN
FLAMINGO C CUIT
JUN T AGGRECA
JIAN S M G S L
DAYLIGHT PROBES E
E E R G B E E
SEAPORTS G S E P
C R N G H M IAN
HOLLY CALLED N H
I I L ETERNITY
BANDANNA N E E
E G D RETORTED

Franco secret

General Franco gave refuge to more than a hundred active German Nazis at the Second World War's end, providing many with new identities, a classified Allied document shows. **Page 9**

Nato choice

President Clinton has chosen Wesley Clark, an army general who, like him, grew up in Arkansas and attended Oxford, to be the next military commander of Nato and head of US forces in Europe. **Page 10**

Cash for support

India's 13-party coalition government must seek a vote of confidence, provoking a period of "suitcase politics" — the illegal handing of bags of money to MPs in return for support. **Page 11**

Boycott derided

Israel ridiculed the Arab League's call to reimpose an economic boycott on the Jewish state, accusing the Arabs of scheming to topple Binyamin Netanyahu's right-wing Government. **Page 12**

Ailing island

St Helena, best known as the final exile of Napoleon, may sink into oblivion and despair without outside investment. **Page 12**

Rebels roll on

Zairean rebels look set to roll unopposed into the country's economic heartland after capturing a rail centre. **Page 12**



Erica Brunoehler, aged six, enjoys some of the 250,000 daffodils planted in Green Park to mark the Queen's fiftieth wedding anniversary in November. London children planted another 300 bulbs at Buckingham Palace beneath her private apartments

Sent off: The Bank of England's Governor has stopped his chief economist becoming a non-executive director of Aston Villa Football Club, which may affect £140 million flotation plans. **Page 44**

Apocalypse Dow: Share prices tumbled further on Wall Street, prompting fears of a collapse in London this morning. The Dow Jones lost more than 100 points in early trading. **Page 44**

TV venture delay: The \$500 million link-up between the BBC and the US's Discovery Communications has hit obstacles expected delay new channels. **Page 44**

Tesco card: Tesco is launching a credit card and applying for a bank licence in a venture with the Royal Bank of Scotland. **Page 41**

Rugby league: Alex Murphy, temporary coach at Warrington, saw his new charges crush his former side, Wigan, 35-24 in the Stones Super League. **Page 26**



Death and malediction: Richard Cork was awaiting promotion from the National League after Wolverhampton Wanderers came back to draw at Queens Park Rangers. **Page 23**

Cricket: West Indies won the third Test in Bridgetown after dismissing India for 81 to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. Franklyn Rose took 7 for 96. **Page 23**

Racing: Jenny Pitman has completed a clean sweep of grand national wins after Mudahim's victory in the Irish race at Fairyhouse. **Page 29**

Passion players: Easter provides the spiritual setting for a feast of fine music. Barry Millington reviews the Gabrieli Consort's version of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. **Page 17**

Divided families: Catherine Layle's sons were abducted by their father but German courts granted him custody. Now, Bill Frost reports, she is campaigning to change international laws to protect parents like her. **Page 13**

Papal power: When the Pope tells you to go to hell that is exactly what he means. Tom Murphy describes the medieval aspects of a priest's excommunication. **Page 13**

The Backroom Kids: Baby spin doctors, infant aden and advisers in short trousers. Michael Gove on how the next century's political stars are already telling Cabinet ministers what to do. **Pages 14, 15**

PETER RIDDELL

I am not sure Tony Blair's advisers realise how, in practice, it will be impossible for him, or Gordon Brown, to have control over every policy announcement, as now. Secretaries of State have to be given some freedom of manoeuvre, or government will clog up. **Page 2**

LIBBY PURVIS

Our education system is increasingly based on a worship of tension and anxiety (what else are tests and tables?), and on synchronised striving for an arid, tightly defined status quo. Did we want it to be like this? **Page 18**

ISABEL CARLISLE

Caricature is as ephemeral as the individuals whom it exaggerates to deline. Safré, which addresses the broader picture of human types and failings, endures — one reason for Höglund's ability to communicate across the centuries. **Page 18**

Elia Maillart

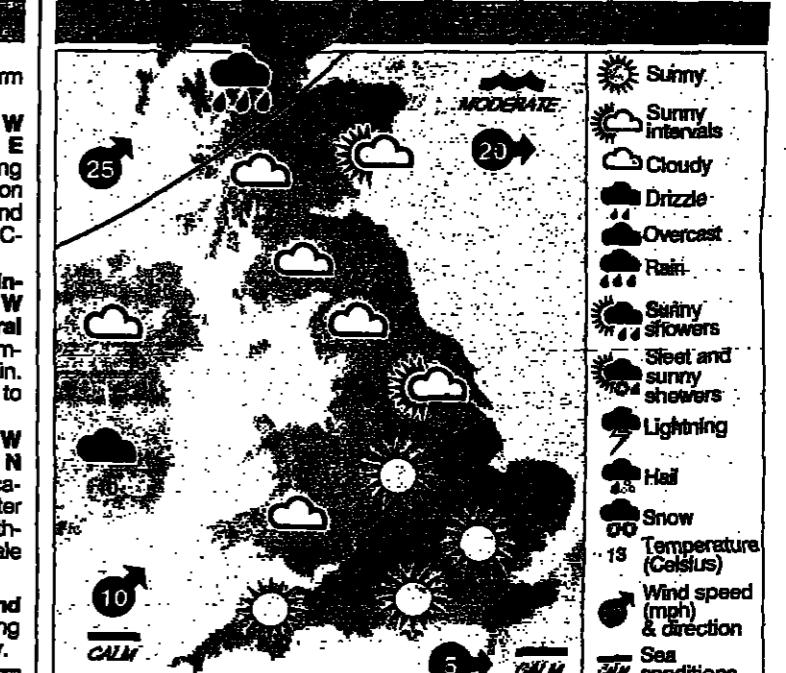
Elia Maillart, traveller and author; Edward Purcell, Nobel laureate in Physics; Fritz Spielemann, song composer. **Page 21**

Mandelson replies to Rees-Mogg: law of medical consent; proposed "drugs czar"; future standards for cinema and television; prison reforms; getting wet; joy of housework. **Page 19**

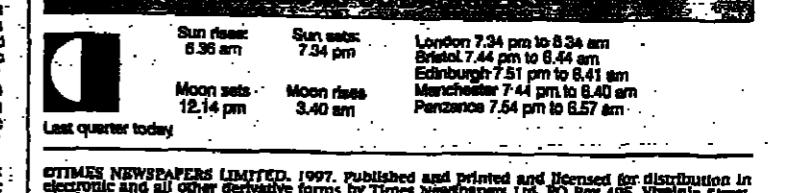
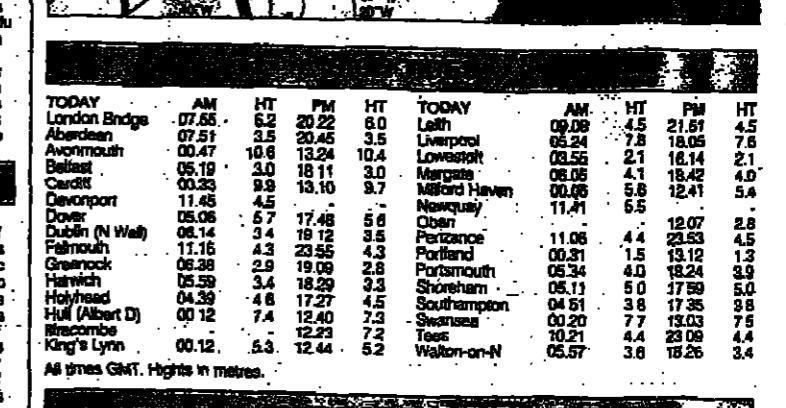
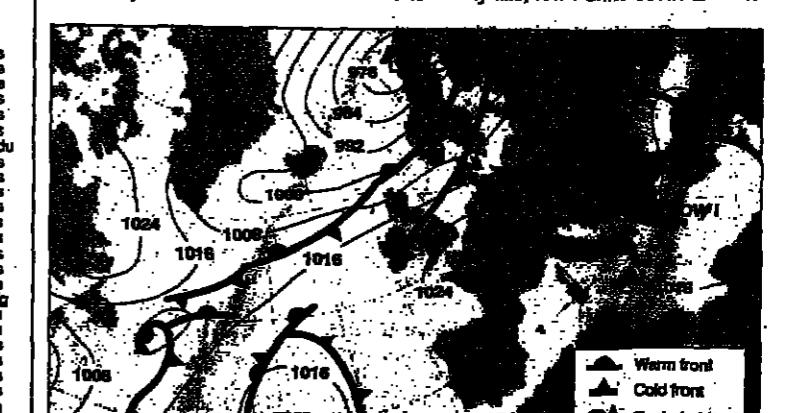
**TOMORROW****IN THE TIMES**

■ INTERFACE
A major survey talks you through the maze of telecom offers that confuse consumers

■ HOMES
Dreaming of a pastoral utopia: *Country Life's* property pages are a century old this week



Changes to chart below from noon: high A declines in situ; low C stays stationary over northern Scandinavia and slowly fills; low D drifts south and fills



Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
London 02 326 401 746
500 UK Link Roads 0336 401 747
National Motorways 0336 401 748
Continental Europe 0336 401 910
Channel crossing 0336 401 388
Motorway & Airports 0336 407 505

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Metfax: Marine future forecasts 416 398

World City Weather  0336 411 216

by Phone fax 0336 411 216 by Fax (Index page) 0336 416 323

Motoring Europe Country by Country 0336 401 805

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French Motorways 0336 401 857

Spars Information 0336 401 882

Disneyland Paris 0336 401 409

La Stade 0336 401 895

AA Car reports by Fax

Use and send our reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Don't run your car, header, you may have to pull receive mode

All Developments Ltd.

Verdict: latest Treasury forecast: 10.2% W.F.

Caris charged at 4p per minute cheap rate, 50p minute at all other times.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Gravesend, Kent, 16°C London Weather Centre, 17°C (85°F); lowest day temp: Spokandikan, Cumbria, 8°C (46°F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highlands, 0.86in; highest sunshiner: Cullompton, Exe, 11.5hr.

ACROSS

22 Bat one held in hand (4)

23 The band tilted in order to get this instrument (10)

24 American metric is home bird (9)

25 Hungry, so ensure it's cooked (3)

26 Tool able to retract nails (4-3)

27 Not so excited, we hear, so not humming at all (9)

28 Go over one gallery visited by monarch (7)

29 Businesslike foreign article found in European airport (7)

30 It would do well in caravan (4-5)

31 Produce greetings from Australia in hot spell (3-4)

32 A place for director to order cut (7)

33 Game in which China isn't good? (9)

34 There is no reason to be so spontaneous (9)

35 Exotic character mounted on wild lions (7)

36 Reasonable opponents at bridge found within playing area (7)

37 Like waves in Serpentine (7)

38 Misuse our name to cast a spell (7)

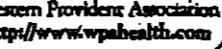
39 Sounded call for secession (7)

40 Solution to Puzzle No 20,441

CATAYSTIC C PER
LUE E GRANAHAN
FLAMMATE HILLIN
FERN R GRANAHAN
FLAMINGO C CUIT
JUN T AGGRECA
JIAN S M G S L
DAYLIGHT PROBES E
E E R G B E E
SEAPORTS G S E P
C R N G H M IAN
HOLLY CALLED D N H
I I L ETERNITY
BANDANNA N E E
E G D RETORTED

Times Two Crossword, page 44

HEALTH SAFETY NET
You insure more than your life in your life. Why not your health? WPA's range of good value, high service health schemes are all detailed on the internet.

OWPA 

Western Provident Association
[http://www.owpah](http://www.owpahs.com)

THE TIMES



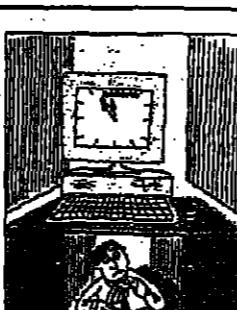
2

INSIDE SECTION

2
TODAY

SPORT

Daly hits bottom of barrel in golf's last-chance saloon
PAGES 23-32



LAW

How to avoid IT chaos when 2000 strikes
PAGES 33-36



BUSINESS

Restaurateur tastes success at a tough time
PAGE 38

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 42, 43

TUESDAY APRIL 1 1997

McGhee's tactical switch delays promotion celebrations for league leaders

Wolves keep Bolton in suspense

Queens Park Rangers ... 2
Wolverhampton W'drs ... 2

BY OLIVER HOLT

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BOLTON Wanderers were left bound to the Nationwide League first division by the most slender of threads last night. Wolverhampton Wanderers, the team that could have confirmed the club's swift return to the FA Carling Premiership by losing yesterday at Loftus Road, delayed the celebrations by fighting back for an improbable draw against Queens Park Rangers. The point that Wolves earned, courtesy of a scrambled goal by Goodman and a well-taken penalty by Curle after they had been overrun in the first half, meant they retain a mathematical chance of depriving Bolton of the automatic promotion spot.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	40	24	13	13	85	54	94
Barnsley	40	24	13	13	84	54	93
Wolves	40	18	13	19	57	43	70
Sheffield Uni	41	18	11	12	59	45	69
Port Vale	41	15	15	11	51	48	60
C. Palme	38	16	11	11	68	39	59
Norwich	41	16	11	14	59	40	59
Portsmouth	39	17	8	14	53	43	56
Wrexham	40	16	12	12	55	49	55
Stoke	40	16	13	15	46	50	57
Tranmere	40	15	11	14	54	50	56
Stamford	41	13	7	19	42	59	53
Colchester	39	14	12	14	54	54	53
Cheltenham	39	14	9	16	45	54	51
Birmingham	39	13	12	14	43	45	51
Reading	40	13	11	15	45	57	50
Millwall	40	12	12	16	44	56	49
Huddersfield	40	12	12	16	44	56	49
West Brom	40	11	14	15	61	56	47
Bradford	40	10	11	15	62	54	41
Grimby	39	9	12	16	52	71	38
Oldham	39	9	11	19	44	63	38
*Southend	40	7	13	20	37	74	34

* not including last night's match



Dichio, left, of QPR, comes off second best to Law, of Wolves, during the tense promotion tussle at Loftus Road yesterday afternoon. Photograph: Nick Potts

they will probably clinch against Rangers at Burnenden Park on Saturday. Only if Wolves win their last six games, and score more than 30 goals in the process, could Bolton be consigned to the purgatory of the play-offs.

Still, the spirited Wolves recovery, which was prompted by an intelligent double substitution from their manager, Mark McGhee, ended a run of three successive defeats and left them with their hopes of overtaking Barnsley for the second promotion place alive if fading. "Barnsley have got to be the favourites now," McGhee said, "but we are not conceding anything."

Rangers, who had won four out of five before yesterday, moved to within two points of the play-off zone themselves, but their dominance in the opening half an hour was such that their supporters headed home, bitterly disappointed that they had not put more pressure on the clubs above them. Rangers began the match playing some of the most lively, inventive football seen outside the Premiership this season. Spencer and Peacock, the two former Chelsea

players, seemed to be operating telepathically in attack, too quick in thought and deed for a Wolves defence made to look flat-footed and clumsy.

Nor did Rangers waste time asserting their authority. In the fourth minute, Dichio ran on to a ball threaded through to him by Maddix, but his shot cannoned off Stowell's foot and bounded away for a look. Rangers did not let up, forging forward, winning every tackle, hoovering up every loose ball. Dichio, bound for Sampdoria at the end of the season, headed just wide from Peacock's cross, but, ten minutes later, Wolves only half cleared a Barker cross and Peacock got to the ball first, lashing it into the roof of Stowell's net.

Seven minutes before the interval, Dichio nearly put the game beyond Wolves' reach when he headed it past Stowell beaten. By then, though, McGhee had begun to take remedial measures, replacing the lightweight Corica in midfield with the more combative Thomas.

In the thirteenth minute, though, the Wolves goalkeeper could resist the barrage no longer. The referee, Steve Baines, played an advantage in midfield, Osborn played a pass into Peacock's path on the right wing, and his deep cross was met at the back post by

Spencer, who headed the ball back across Sommer into the far corner of the net.

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Barely a minute after Dichio's miss, though, with Wolves already stabilised, Goodman pounced on Sommer's fumble to poke the ball into the Rangers net and, five minutes before half-time, McGhee completed the correct-

line through ball from Osborn, which Goodman ran on to before being tripped in the box by Yates.

After some delaying gamesmanship from Sommer, Curle sidefooted the penalty low to the goalkeeper's left and into the net via his outstretched hand.

"We came here to try to play a bit but we have scored four points over Easter. I do not think that is a setback. We have to get something out of it. In fact, we have to get something out of everything now."

Barnsley (2-1 winners at Reading) had a great result today and obviously they are in the best position, but, if they lose a game, then we are right there with them. We deserved something from today and we can go on from this."

Rangers, who were helped by some of the other results yesterday, need at least a point on Saturday if they are to keep their momentum going. "The first half hour was the best I have seen anybody play in the first division this season," Stewart Houston, the Rangers manager, said.

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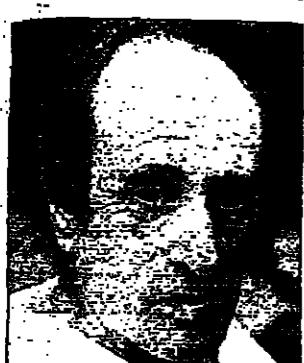
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BRIAN GLANVILLE



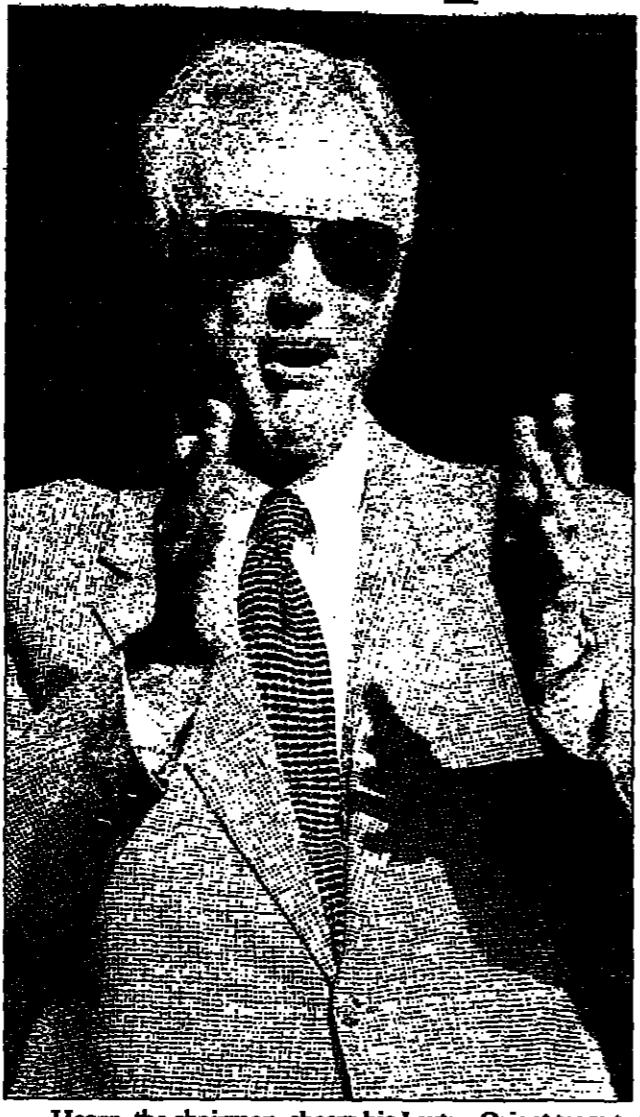
You've changed the place of them posts, since I was here," Mervyn Day, the Carlisle United manager and former Leyton Orient goalkeeper, said to Tommy Taylor, the present Orient manager. Day certainly had a point. Three times, Carlisle, riding high in the Nationwide League third division, hit Orient's posts, but only once did the ball go in.

So it was that Orient, high on their surprising away success against Scunthorpe United on Saturday — only their third of the season and the first since September — emerged from this game with a 2-1 victory and all three points.

"An Orient away win," Barry Hearn, their chairman, said, "is rarer than a Château Lafite 1953." In Hearn's view: "We've got to go up next year."

What Hearn has been doing for Orient, the flamboyant Michael Knighton has been doing for Carlisle. It seems long ago that, before what you might call the takeover that never was at Manchester United, Knighton was seen on the pitch at Old Trafford, juggling a football to the amazement of the crowd. Day says that much of the money to finance Carlisle's new £2.5 million stand came from Knighton himself.

As for Hearn, he denies that



Hearn, the chairman, cheers his Leyton Orient team to victory, left, as Thomas, of Carlisle, sees his run halted by Channing, right, and Adkin

he can any longer, after a couple of years, be called "the saviour". Now, he says, Orient is run as an efficient business, though, given the frenetic turnover of footballers this season, "we've had more problems with the players not knowing the other players' names, they've been coming in so fast".

This eventful, entertaining

game was, as both managers agreed, dominated by Orient in the first half and Carlisle in the second. Did Orient run out of steam? Taylor admitted that they might have and that the sunshine could have got to them.

As for Day, he defused that, "we defended very poorly in that 15 to 20 minutes". Minutes, indeed, that cost



Carlisle the game. The opening three minutes were alarming for Carlisle, but inspiring for Orient. First, Channing sent Chapman to the byeline, but somehow Carlisle escaped when he pulled the ball across the goal.

They did not escape in the third minute, when Arnott crossed from the left for the ever-dynamic McGleish to

bang the ball in. Eight minutes later, McGleish scored Orient's second goal, the result of a defensive fiasco. Hyde, the Orient goalkeeper, booted the ball long and high up the field. It looked entirely a defender's ball, but McGleish outjumped Walling and sent his header looping into the net.

The incidents of a single minute just before half-time

were probably decisive for the game. First, when Channing, always eager to overlap from Orient's five-man defence, centred from the right, Timmons got his head to it, but the ball flew just outside the right-hand post. Almost immediately, Carlisle were on the attack. A tremendous drive by Pounewatchy, their French import, rebounded from the

Watford lose momentum

Plymouth Argyle 0
Watford 0

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHEN THESE two teams contested an FA Cup semi-final in 1984, Plymouth were in more or less the same position they occupy now — going nowhere in the bottom division but one. Watford, however, were in the top flight and, on the strength of a hat-trick of 1-0 victories, they went into the holiday programme optimistic of taking the first steps on the long road back. It was almost beginning to look as if the bookmakers who made them pre-season favourites for promotion knew a thing or two.

Easter, however, has been a severe let-down. The 1-0 home defeat by Bournemouth on Saturday was followed by this truly dire goalless draw, although Watford remain in the log-jam that is the top of the Nationwide League second division.

"Looking at the last five games, we've won three, lost

one and drawn one," Kenny Jackett, the Watford manager, said. "We're still in a play-off spot with eight games to go and we have to stick in there."

If those eight games are anything like this one, it will be a painful run-in. With each side playing three forwards and Bruce Grobbelaar indulging in a couple of eccentric early excursions from his goal — some way down the left wing in one case — more action might have been expected, but statistics rarely lie. A combination of Watford's miserly defence, which has conceded only 27 goals — the fewest in the Nationwide League — and the low-scoring Argyle attack produced a soporific first half. The bizarre announcement of the half-time scores, using names of managers and sponsors instead of clubs, was more inventive than anything that had happened on the pitch.

It took 54 minutes for the first real chance to arrive and Watford created it when a pass from Ramage, playing his first game since an injury in September, found Richard

Johnson with only Grobbelaar to beat, but the goalkeeper blocked the shot and Williams was able to clear. Johnson's next effort, a low 25-yarder, was much better, demanding a one-handed save from Grobbelaar at the foot of the post.

Bazeley and Slater, the substitutes, both headed tamely at good late chances for Watford, although, at the other end, a close-range shot from Collins was repelled bravely by Miller and Billy's 35-yard shot screamed just over the crossbar.

"The chances were there to have won it," Luther Blissett, the Watford assistant manager, said. "Any one who can put three results together as we did before Easter will be back in there and it's just a question of doing it again."

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (1-3-3): B. Grobbelaar; M. Parsons, P. Williams (sub P. Mauge, 71min); C. Billy, M. Barrow, M. Leighton; S. Williams, C. Collins, A. Leighton. Sent off: J. Scurrill (Stoke), 89. Scored 1: S. Johnson (Stoke), 89.

GRIMSBY (1) 2 IPSWICH (1) 1

Matchday 14: Ipswich 10, Grimsby 1. Scored 1: J. Dyer (Grimsby), 47. H. Harry (Sheffield United), 54.

NORWICH (1) 1 OXFORD (1) 1

Matchday 15: Oxford 3, Norwich 1.

OLDHAM (2) 5 SWINDON (0) 1

Matchday 12 (post): Score 0-0.

PORT VALE (1) 2 TRANMERE (1) 1

Matchday 13: Score 2-2.

READING (1) 1 BARNESLEY (2) 2

Matchday 27 (post): Score 1-2.

Sheffield United (2) 11 BIRMINGHAM (1) 1

Matchday 16: Score 1-1.

POSTPONED: West Bromwich Albion v Crystal Palace (postponed verdict — half-time score 0-0, time score 0-0, score draw).

P W D L F A Pts

Bolton 40 24 12 4 48 84

Brassey 39 19 13 7 54 84

Wolves 40 19 9 12 57 85

Sheffield United 41 18 11 12 59 85

Port Vale 38 15 11 11 47 85

Sheffield United 38 16 11 14 43 85

Wolverhampton 40 13 11 16 48 85

Reading 39 11 11 14 43 85

Sheffield United 40 13 11 16 48 85

Port Vale 38 16 11 11 47 85

Sheffield United 38 16 11 11 47 85

Wolverhampton 40 13 11 16 48 85

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Wolverhampton 40 13 11 16 48 85

RUGBY LEAGUE: VAGANA TRY HAT-TRICK INSPIRES WARRINGTON TO REMARKABLE WIN OVER WIGAN

Cullen and Murphy pull off double act

Warrington Wolves 35
Wigan Warriors 24

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ALEX MURPHY has no intention of a full-time return to coaching at 57. For one thing, the nerves could not take it. Before an outstanding win by Warrington in an epic Stones Super League encounter yesterday, he joked that it would be the shortest appointment in history. No wonder he was beaming afterwards.

Murphy, the club's football executive and Paul Cullen, the assistant coach, took joint temporary charge of the coaching role 48 hours before, when John Dorahy resigned after four successive defeats. For all that Wigan had been beaten last Friday by St Helens, facing them had the look of unnecessary cruelty. It is amazing what a reminder of pride in performance can bring about and Wigan were soundly beaten, despite a late comeback.

The afternoon at Wilderspool was pure theatre. Murphy, who last coached Warrington 19 years ago, was his familiar, finger-jabbing self in the dug-out. He shook the hand of each of his players as they walked off at half-time, 22-4 ahead, before suffering the agonies of the home supporters as Wigan responded with three quick tries.

With five minutes left, Kelly Sheldor dropped a goal to calm nerves and, by the time Penny waltzed clear in the last minutes, Murphy was taking the plaudits. The crowd rose at the end to him and Cullen, who took the key roles of



Results and tables 32

selecting and drilling the team.

Warrington hope to announce Dorahy's successor this week. Whoever takes over now knows that far from the hapless disjointed outfit seen in three opening Super League defeats, Warrington have commitment and skillful individuals.

Cullen, who is injured, said:

"It was a guts effort and honesty was written all the way through it." Murphy was content for once, to take a back seat in the after-match press conference, but his personal philosophy about pride in a team jersey was writ large.

Of three tries by Nigel Vagana, one of several expensive foreign imports who, until yesterday, had offered very little, Murphy said: "One or two players produced their form, like Vagana. I was proud of the players and especially of Paul Cullen. Until Saturday, remember, he was the Alliance coach."



Tatupu weaves his way through the shattered Wigan defence to score an impressive try for Warrington

It was Warrington's first home defeat of Wigan in a decade and the first time since the Dorahy reign at Central Park, in 1994, that Wigan had lost successive matches.

"Easter has been a disaster for us," Eric Hughes, Wigan's coach said. "We know we've got problems and that we have to rebuild."

Were Wigan to lose Andy Farrell for any length of time, they would be in serious trouble. The captain kept his head while around him others were losing theirs. Too many good players have gone, while inadequate or inexperienced

ones have taken their place, for Wigan to be a force this year.

Three of Wigan's five tries, including the first by Ellison, were created by kicks, an area Warrington must work on, but it was the remarkable composure at scrum half of Ian Duffy, 16, and the strong running of the pack, in which Tatupu and Sculthorpe were outstanding, that put down the foundations of a famous victory.

Vagana and Tatupu, in a couple of defence-splitting charges, scored direct from Wigan penalties. Vagana's

second was an 80-metre interception of a pass by Long, and when Murray picked up an off-side position, Duffy's excellent pass searched out Sheldor for a try before the break.

Even the Warrington wolf mascot was looking more animated. Wigan were again their own worst enemies, as Radlinski failed to find touch with a simple kick and Vagana eluded Tallec for his hat-trick. Roper's fifth goal gave Warrington an apparently unassassable 30-8 lead, until three Wigan tries in seven minutes by Murdock, Ellison

and Radlinski reminded Murphy of the perils of being a coach. No one was happier than him to see Sheldor's dropped goal sail over and Penny's last-minute try.

SCORERS: Warrington: Tries: Vagana (3), Tatupu, Sheldor, Penny, Goals: Roper (5). Dropped goal: Sheldor. Wigan: Tries: Long, Duffy (2), Vagana, Murdock, Radlinski, Goals: Roper (6).

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, R Henan, J Roper, N Vagana, M Forster, R Sheldor, J Duffy, W Stevens, G Nutne, G Doherty, G Sculthorpe, G Tallec, G Sculthorpe, Substitutes: C Rude, G Davies, P Whingdale, M Conroy.

WIGAN WARRIORS: D Murray, J Robinson, A Johnson, D Radcliffe, G Ellison, S Doherty, A Hinchliffe, M Conroy, T O'Connor, S Heugton, G Tallec, C Murdoch, M Hall, S Holmes. Substitutes: R Johnson (Castledine).

Referee: R Smith (Castledine).

	P	W	L	F	APs
Leopards	35	27	8	270	3086 54
Birmingham	34	25	9	203	2847 50
London	34	25	9	290	2732 50
Chester	35	24	11	3035	2877 48
Sheffield	34	24	11	290	2855 48
Warrington	34	20	14	2855	2853 40
Nottingham	35	14	13	153119	3024 40
Derby	35	14	13	3068	3109 23
Leicester	34	14	13	20302	2885 23
Thames Valley	34	13	17	3068	3170 23
Worcester	34	10	24	2822	3046 20
C Palces	36	5	31	2705	3116 10
Harrow and W33	2	31	2783	3473 10	

about the sport. Simons and Goldsmith were then acquainted with Harry and Mike Wrubleski, the Australian owners of Birmingham Bullets. "They walked into the office one day and started preaching the gospel of basketball. They were so infectious. We finally understood what it would mean in terms of time and effort."

Simons is not prepared to divulge details of the financial package, only that "it was a lot of money, a significant investment. It was enough for me to devote a substantial part of my working day to make it work."

For the first two years, we wanted to learn the basics. As long as we were in a respectable position, were entertaining and starting to build an audience, I felt we could do a job. This year, we felt we could win a trophy. Winning two is a bonus."

□ Spectators will be admitted to the London Arena for £1 on Thursday, when the Leopards will receive the Budweiser League Trophy before their final League game against Hemel and Watford Royal.

Salford leave Paris to rue early loss of Evans

Salford Reds 27
Paris Saint-Germain 26

By A CORRESPONDENT

HAD David Campbell, the referee, been able to call up a video replay of the tackle that caused him to send off Evans, the Paris centre, after 15 minutes at The Willows yesterday, this result might well have been reversed. As it was, a dropped goal by Blakeley, ten minutes from time, enabled Salford to maintain their 100 per cent Stones Super League record after they had been outscored by five tries to four.

Evans appeared to have

committed a dangerously high tackle on McAvoy, but a second viewing on the giant television screen suggested that it was nothing of the sort.

The referee was able to call for a video replay before making a decision on the legitimacy of Taylor's second-half "try" for Salford and it took eight replays to convince the official that the centre had not applied proper downward pressure after a 30-yard break.

Paris, who were convinced that the day would have been theirs with a full complement throughout, at least had a Frenchman on board to share in their sufferings: Didier Cabestany, albeit as a substi-

tute, finally broke the Antipodean monopoly on the team's line-up after almost 3½ games. Until and even after Evans's dismissal, Paris swarmed all over Salford, showing up Rogers' limitations under the high

ball. A bad miss almost let in Bird, and minutes later, another saw Bergman scoop over.

With O'Donnell and Martin probing for openings, which Bergman in particular was

quick to exploit, Paris struggled off Evans's departure when the wing cut through to send Bird over. Robinson's second goal gave Paris a deserved 12-0 lead.

By half-time, though, Salford had taken charge. Naylor ended a Watson-inspired counter attack with a try, and when Rogers broke from deep inside his own half, Paris were stretched to breaking point on the left before Blakeley's floated pass allowed Naylor to put Sini over.

Three Blakeley goals gave Salford a two-point advantage, but further tries by Bird and Bergman — one after another Rogers gaffe — swung

the game back in Paris's favour. Then Rogers, the villain thus far, became a hero. He twice breached the Paris defence in a super-charged spell and, despite Bergman's late score for a worthy hat-trick, further Blakeley goals kept Salford just ahead.

SCORERS: Salford: Tries: Rogers (2), Naylor, S. Blakeley (5). Dropped goal: Blakeley (5). Paris: Saint-Germain: D. Bird, G. Bergman, G. Evans, P. Martin, S. Blakeley, G. Naylor, S. Bergman, P. Edwards, C. Eccles, P. Forster, J. Watson, D. O'Donnell, J. Pritchard, J. Taylor, M. Hinchliffe, T. Bergman, Substitutes: J. Taylor, D. Lohr, J. Durkin, D. Cabestany. Referee: R Smith (Wiches).

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN: N Hyde, D Bird, P Evans, J Bergman, D O'Donnell, J Pritchard, M Hinchliffe, T Bergman, Substitutes: J Taylor, D Lohr, J Durkin, D Cabestany. Referee: R Smith (Wiches).

Salford: D Rogers, F Shi, S Martin, S. Blakeley, G. Evans, P. Edwards, C. Eccles, P. Forster, J. Watson, D. O'Donnell, J. Pritchard, J. Taylor, M. Hinchliffe, T. Bergman, Substitutes: J. Taylor, D. Lohr, J. Durkin, D. Cabestany. Referee: R Smith (Wiches).

Referee: R Smith (Wiches).

CRICKET

Waugh century great leveller

A BRILLIANT, unbeaten 115 from Mark Waugh led Australia to a seven-wicket victory over South Africa in Port Elizabeth yesterday in the second of seven one-day internationals. Waugh's tenth one-day century levelled the series after South Africa's equally emphatic six-wicket win on Saturday and gave Australia a boost after 13 defeats in their last 19 one-day matches.

Need 222 to win, Waugh added 107 with his twin brother, Steve, who scored 50 not out, after Pat Symcox, the off-spinner, had taken two wickets in two balls. Waugh's innings came in 25 balls, with eight boundaries and three sixes. His brother's half-century came from 52 balls with five fours and a six.

However, Kallis and Rhodes added 104 for the fourth wicket before Rhodes drove a catch to mid-on to depart for 57. Kallis and

Cronje, who scored 31, added another 61 for the fifth wicket, but both were bowled by Gillespie in the 45th over. Kallis's 82 came from 118 balls with five fours and a six.

□ Kenya, the favourites, join Scotland, Denmark and Canada in one-quarter-final group of the ICC Trophy tournament, which resumes in Kuala Lumpur today after a rest day.

Bangladesh, Holland, Ireland and Hong Kong are in the second group.

FEATURES: Today: Group E: Kenya v. Canada; Scotland v. Denmark; Group F: Bangladesh v. Hong Kong; Holland v. Ireland; Tomorrow: Group G: Canada v. Kenya; Group H: Bangladesh v. Ireland; Holland v. Hong Kong. Friday: Group E: Kenya v. Canada; Denmark; Scotland; Group F: Bangladesh v. Holland; Ireland v. Hong Kong.

Scoreboard, page 32

Williams-Renault, Goodyear had rushed out a public relations statement acclaiming its 346th Formula One win. Its complacency has clearly been ratified by the challenge this season from Bridgestone.

First and second, the release trumpeted, Gerhard Berger's Benetton-Renault in second place also being Goodyear's chief supplier of tires. Despite outward appearances, the majority of teams using Bridgestone on Sunday were more satisfied, specifically regarding tire performance, than their rivals.

Within minutes of Jacques Villeneuve having received the chequered flag in his

third in Alain Prost's Mugen-Honda, reported that the Bridgestone tires were superlative. "They were brilliant," Pat Symcox said. "They maintained their grip steadily, even when the weight of the car decreased with the consumption of fuel. The wear was even, not like Goodyear, which decreases sharply."

Prost was himself supremely skilled in preserving wearing tires to avoid pit changes late in a race. Pat Symcox and his colleague, Shinji Nakano, only made one stop, compared with two by all the leading teams on Goodyear.

The evidence that began to emerge after the race was less convincing. Olivier Panis,

gets to grips with the European red stuff, he feels secure. Over the past two years, few have managed to beat him on clay — and lost just five — but there is more to Muster than that.

On Sunday, in temperatures of 106°F, he simply wore Bruguera down. "I think it was just about taking the pain out there," he said. "I was mentally better and he just went down and down. If you're down, you know how far you have to go to win the match and, in this heat, it's big." And therein lies the key to Muster — he refuses to be beaten.

Standing 5ft 11in in his socks, Muster is not the biggest of players on the circuit. Lacking a killer service and a

natural touch at the net, he knows that he lacks some of the instinctive gifts of his rivals. What Muster has in abundance, though, is determination. He is undoubtedly one of the fittest players, pushing himself every day because he knows that he has to in order to give himself a chance against the likes of Sampras or Becker. For this, he is dismissed as all muscle and no talent.

He has fought his way back from an injury that could have ended his career and has pushed himself to his physical limit on court, collapsing after a match and coming back to win again. For this, he is dismissed as a machine. He grunts and curses, he argues and battles — and for this he

is dismissed as an animal on court.

When finally he became the world No 1 last year, after winning 12 titles, all but one of them on clay, during the previous 12 months, the top American players shrugged their shoulders and suggested that Muster had never won much on any other surface, so why should he deserve the top ranking.

Off court, it seems, Muster can never win, but on court on Sunday, he made his point. "To have two European players playing this final on this American surface, it's great," he said. "I don't want to mention any names, but I saw a really long face out there today, really upset. That's the biggest justice, I like it."

□ Spectators will be admitted to the London Arena for £1 on Thursday, when the Leopards will receive the Budweiser League Trophy before their final League game against Hemel and Watford Royal.

Good year not guaranteed as leading tyre makers look to laurels



Panis: happy with tyres

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RACING

Mudahim gives Pitman clean sweep of Nationals

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT FAIRYHOUSE

JENNY PITMAN snatched a Grand National full house from the jaws of defeat when Mudahim won an incident-packed Jameson Irish Grand National here yesterday.

After Mudahim and the local hope, Ambie Speedy, had flashed past the winning post in a rousing finish to £100,000-added race, the bookmakers bowed to the popular view and made Ambie Speedy 8-1 on to get the verdict in the photo finish.

Jason Titley, Mudahim's jockey, seemed to agree and, after congratulating Ambie Speedy's rider, Fran Woods, blamed the bypassing of the third- and second-last fences for Mudahim's "defeat".

The announcement that Mudahim had gained the decision sparked a disbelieving happiness in the Pitman camp and completed the Lambourn trainer's clean sweep of the four Grand Nationals. She has won the Welsh version three times, twice been successful at Aintree and yesterday's success accompanied Willsford's victory in the Scottish National. Pitman joins Martin

BIG-RACE RESULT

SESS JAMESON IRISH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (£32,700) (3m 5f)

1. MUDAHIM (Ire) 10. J. Titley, 13-2

2. Ambie Speedy 11. F. Woods, 14-1

3. The Grey Monk 12. A. Dobbins, 9-2 fav

4. Papillon 13. S. Swan, 9-1

5. R. Lyons, 9-1

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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option



Collymore's goal against Arsenal kept Liverpool in the title race and earned him two points during a lean week

Code	Name	Team	Points	Wk On
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -12
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 -14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-3+30
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0 0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 +1
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +24
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 -1
10402	S Givens	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 +4
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0 -1
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	0 +28
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0 -27
10603	F Grodias	Chelsea	3.00	0 0
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0 -31
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0 0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 -7
10802	R Hould	Derby County	1.00	0 -34
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0 -10
10903	S Dykes	Dundee United	2.50	0 0
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0 -47
11002	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0 -24
11003	P Stewart	Everton	2.50	0 +1
11201	G Ronsett	Hearts	2.00	0 -7
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0 -27
11401	D Bozovic	Hibernian	1.00	0 -4
11501	M Benney	Leeds United	1.50	0 +5
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 0
11503	N Mynatt	Leeds United	2.50	0 +30
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0 -16
11701	D James	Leicester City	5.00	1 +25
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0 +12
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +5
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -20
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -23
11903	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 +3
11904	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	1 -4
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0 -31
12101	S Heslop	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -14
12102	P Smicer	Newcastle United	3.00	0 0
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	1 -44
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 -2
12301	S Thomson	Paisley	0.50	0 -53
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0 +29
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0 0
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 +4
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 -28
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 +2
12604	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	0 -2
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0 -41
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0 -9
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0 -13
12802	E Beardsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0
12901	L Miskoski	West Ham United	2.00	0 -26
13001	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0 +5
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0 -1

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Daly reaches bottom of barrel at last-chance saloon



John Daly is in trouble again. His escapades since he burst to prominence by winning the 1991 US PGA championship have been enough to test the patience of a saint. The latest involving the 1995 Open champion, occurred last week. When is it all going to end?

Drink is a recurring theme in many of these incidents. In December 1991, he damaged an hotel room in South Africa while he was drunk. In June 1992, he was removed from a New York-bound plane in Denver after a confrontation with a stewardess. He won his first major championship while an alcoholic, his second while on the wagon.

Since 1991, he has twice been suspended from the US PGA Tour and twice attended an alcohol rehabilitation centre. At different

times since then, he has failed to sign his card, scuffed in a car park with a man three times his age, picked his ball up during a competitive round as well as being involved in well-publicised marital difficulties. He has been off the wagon, on it and off it again.

Last week, after a drinking session at Sloppy Joe's, a night club in Jacksonville, Florida, Daly allegedly did \$1,000-worth of damage to his hotel room after a dispute with his wife, before being driven to hospital by Fuzzy Zoeller. On Sunday, Daly announced he was entering the Betty Ford Clinic alcohol rehabilitation programme.

"I have come to realise that this terrible disease is much tougher than I thought," he said in a statement on Sunday. "I apologise to others who struggle with me in

fighting this disease. I am going to do my best and, hopefully, we will prevail together."

There was a time when one felt sympathy for Daly, an immature young man of 30, who is unable to cope with the attendant difficulties of being able to hit the ball a long way and being excessively well paid for doing so. Even when his fellow professionals pointed out how he gave up if he did not start with a good first round, he seemed to cut a sympathetic figure.

He gained a new generation of followers when he won the Open Championship at St Andrews in 1995, joining Jack Nicklaus, Johnny

Miller and Tom Watson as the only men to have won two major titles before their 30th birthday. He hit the ball massive distances, driving six of the par fours during the example.

Yet, he also demonstrated that he was more than a prodigiously long hitter. Four times in one round, he two-putted from more than a hundred feet, including one monster he paced off at 180 feet. The people of St Andrews took him to their hearts.

Such sympathy now seems misplaced because he has played so badly since. He gives the impression of taking people for a ride. In

the Johnnie Walker Classic, in Australia this year, for which he was handsomely rewarded for appearing, he began with a 77 and then added a 79 for a 36-hole total that was 12 over par. He finished 146th out of 154 competitors. One week later, in another tournament for which he was paid to appear, he finished 65th and the promoter said: "You cannot play cards all night, drink, smoke and eat hamburgers and expect to play top-class golf. You can't blame the world; only yourself."

The truth is golf is no longer needs Daly as it once did. The hundreds of spectators who used to turn up to marvel at his prodigious hitting have been replaced by thousands who are drawn to watch Tiger Woods. At present, Woods appears to have the credentials to become

GOLF

King wears the crown to regain his master's touch

By PATRICIA DAVIES

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK FALDO will take to the practice range and the gym this week to try to rediscover the spark that could bring him a fourth Masters title in 13 days' time. Faldo was 24th in the Players' Championship at Sawgrass at the weekend, his final warm-up tournament before Augusta, finishing 16 shots behind of Kris Tschetter, who was the runner-up in the US Women's Open last year.

Amy Fruhwirth, the petite

(5ft 2in)

and bubbly former US

Women's Amateur champion,

shared third place on 297 with

Kelly Robbins, who struggled

in 40, four over par.

Lisa Hackney, of Staffordshire, making her debut in the

Dinah Shore at Mission Hills

country club on Sunday — just a big, white, fluffy Easter bunny near the 18th green — and Betsy King brought her experience to bear, to win the title for the third time and a cheque for \$135,000 (around £85,000).

King, 41, from Pennsylvania, had not won since June 1995, when she became the fourteenth member of the Hall of Fame. A solid round of 71, one under par, enabled her to win her sixth major championship with a total of 276, 12 under, two shots ahead of Kris Tschetter, who was the runner-up in the US Women's Open last year.

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Amy Fruhwirth, the petite

(5ft 2in)

and bubbly former US

Women's Amateur champion,

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LAW

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● LAW REPORT 36

New disclosure provisions call for new approaches by defence solicitors, says Roger Ede

In the name of justice

New provisions on disclosure by the police to the prosecution and the defence in all criminal cases come into force today. The proposals also sweep away the law made by judges in miscarriage of justice cases to ensure proper disclosure.

The failure of the police and the Crown to disclose evidence inconvenient to their case has been a feature of most of the proven and alleged miscarriages of justice of the past 20 years. Since the 1970s, numerous people have been wrongly sentenced to years in prison because of failures to disclose vital evidence to the defence. Examples include the Birmingham Six (16 years in jail), the Guildford Four (15 years), the Maguire Seven (up to nine years), Judith Ward (18 years), Stefan Kiszko (16 years) and the Bridgewater Three (16 years).

"Non-disclosure," Lord Justice Gildewell said in the appeal of Judith Ward in 1993, is a "potent source of injustice."

In the Guildford Four case, for instance, Gerry Conlon had a cast-iron alibi all along. An alibi of which he knew nothing. He was not in a position to request its disclosure. An alibi witness had seen Conlon asleep at a hostel in Kilburn at the time he was supposed to be carrying out one of the bombings miles away. The witness statement was passed by police to the director of public prosecutions but did not become available to the defendants for another 15 years.

Could such mistakes happen again? Defence lawyers believe they could and are worried that the new rules place too heavy a reliance on the police, who have the responsibility for identifying and informing the prosecutor

about material they have held back that either undermines their case or helps the defence.

Until now, the defence has had relatively free access to this material and, knowing of its existence, has been able to call on the court to arbitrate if the prosecution has refused to allow its inspection. The changes introduced by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 and its Code of Practice meant that the police are expected to adopt the defence solicitor's role and provide evidence that could defeat their case. Yet too many officers regard any probing by the defence as an unnecessary barrier to convicting the "plainly guilty" instead of an essential safeguard and the natural course will be for the officer to select and reveal only material that supports the police version of events.

Research has shown that there are strong pressures on police officers to build a case around a particular suspect, screening out contradictory evidence, ignoring shortcomings in the police investigation and closing their minds to other possibilities. The videotaping of police officers interviewing prosecution witnesses has shown how they influence witness evidence by a variety of techniques including the extensive use of leading questions, verbal domination of the interview by the police officer, omission of relevant things said by the witness and inclusion of things not said, failure to reflect the witness's uncertainty or confusion about factual assertions, use of the officer's own grammatical style to distort claims made by the witness and failure to allow the witness to correct errors before signing the statement. Significantly, in Scotland defence solicitors interview all



Gerry Conlon is released after the Guildford Four's convictions are overturned on appeal

the prosecution witnesses themselves before trial.

What the Crown Prosecution Service and the defence normally see reflects only the latest stages in a sequence of actions by police officers and others. The CPS, the defence and the courts may be left in the dark about the history of the evidence disclosed. Though the defence may apply to the court to order the disclosure of material held by the police, it first has to show how this helps its particular case. Without seeing it, the defence may not know how it is relevant and unless it can show its relevance will not be allowed to it.

So what can the defence do? How can it grapple with this

restrictive new law? If the police cannot be expected to reveal their own shortcomings and the CPS is hard-pressed just to review the disclosed evidence, it falls on the defence to show that the prosecution case is not what it seems. Today, the Law Society publishes *Active Defence*, an analysis of problematic in the evidence disclosed to them or missing from it altogether. It explains how they can then best deal with the new restrictions on disclosure in order to obtain the "behind the scenes" material that can expose hidden flaws in the prosecution case.

Unless defence solicitors are able to get access to police material forming the background to the evidence presented to the court, there is a risk that not only will history repeat itself and miscarriages of justice continue to occur but that this time they will stay undetected.

Written by me and Dr Eric Shepherd, the forensic psychologist in the Bridgewater Three case who shot holes in the Molloy confession, it shows solicitors how, by analysis, they can identify what is

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In their footsteps

OUTS

THE publication of last week's list of new silks contained five barristers who are the sons of judges: Peter Clarke, Henry Rutile, Jeremy Stuar-Smith, Andrew Popplewell and George Leggatt. Not that there is any suggestion of an old boy network: the Lord Chancellor is rigorous in recommending on merit.

The list also broke fresh ground with the first two QC solicitors, Arthur Marriott and Lawrence Collins. Honorary QCs this year included

the well-known academics Professors Michael Zander and Andrew Ashworth, as well as George Staple, the retiring director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Booth update

JUST IN case anyone should get the idea that Cherie Booth, QC, is winding down her practice, Leslie Page, senior clerk at her chambers at 4/5 Gray's Inn Square, says that bookings are already being

taken for cases in May and June. For the next five weeks, meanwhile, Ms Booth has cleared her diary; but only of court work. He says: "She is maintaining her advisory work, even though she is not appearing in court in the run-up to the election."

Her career will continue — PM's wife or not.

Billing and cooing
SOME MAY believe that lawyers in America earn more

money than is good for them, but for Marsha Wars, the daughter of a judge and now former associate at Winston & Strawn, a leading Chicago law firm, it was not enough.

She has pleaded guilty to a charge of prostitution after running an advertisement offering "companionship" to "discreet, sensitive executives and professional gentlemen" at \$30 an hour, a step up from her usual billing rate of \$180.

Great promise

HEADS of Chambers and judges are being asked to donate an annual contribution to help to fund a scholarship established to the memory of Michael Kalisher, QC, the former chairman of the Criminal Bar Association. The scholarship will provide support for students intending to practise at the Bar in England and Wales and who are judged to be of "exceptional promise but modest means".

Seeing red

ONE of the positive attributes of courts in the American South is their lack of formality. In the Criminal Bar Association's latest newsletter, David Marshall, the barrister who has represented many prisoners on Death Row, noted that during Halloween last year the walls of the court in Texas were "festooned with pumpkins, witches and goblins". The court staff were not wearing costumes.

He says: "Nothing, however, prepared me for the entrance of the judge, a sour, humourless man. Atop his head was a huge red wig. I had no idea how to react, especially when his demeanour indicated that he hadn't the foggiest idea it was there."

SCRIVENOR

STEUART & FRANCIS

He also accuses Mr Gummer of making changes to his department's strategic planning guidance for the Thames. The recently issued revised guidance says that "dramatic visual statements and landmark buildings may be appropriate in exceptional cases". Mr

Barrett says that it is "insulting" to view the river purely as a development site. The proposed bridge — with twin towers as high as the top of the dome of St Paul's — would dominate the river, the Temple, Somerset House and historic areas beyond.

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To £60,000
This London and Wales firm has made a big impression recently and attracted some top quality work. It is a firm really going places, making it perfect for an ambitious corporate lawyer with 3-5 years' pp who has good Yellow Book experience and the ability to draft the back-end of prospectuses. Ref: T24458

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To £38,000
As a tax lawyer at the London office of this major US firm, you can expect to work on some very high-profile and cutting edge international tax planning. You will enjoy unbeatable experience if you are 1-3 years qualified and, ideally, some knowledge of EU law and VAT. Ref: T39175

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This thriving medium-sized London firm has been involved in several high-profile cases recently for top notch clients. Promotion is high on the agenda for a lawyer with 0-6 years' pp, not necessarily in pensions, for pensions, employee benefits and insurance work. Enthusiasm is vital. Ref: T29906

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Rodney, Greg Abrahams or Seamus Hoar (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-354 3079 or 0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4H. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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For more details and an application form (to be requested by 9th April 1997), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Altona Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468851 (24 hours) or fax 01256 846478. Please quote reference C3274.

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For further details and an application form (CVs in isolation will not be accepted), please write to Audrey Dumbley, Personnel Department, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 6AB, or telephone 0171 647 3486 (24 hours) quoting ref: RCN/1853. Closing date for receipt of applications 17 April. Interviews will be held on 30 April 1997.

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A pro bono groundswell

Frances Gibb on solicitors who work for no charge

For Leigh Day it was a coup. Some of the best public relations that solicitors have attracted in recent years. When four years of battling to obtain legal aid for a ground-breaking law suit failed, the London firm said it would take on the action as a test case for victims of smoking, anyway. The costs will run to £3 million, which the firm is willing to carry.

If Leigh Day wins, it will recoup the costs, on the "no win, no fee" basis. But the risks are there, and in the meantime, it will not be paid for the work. The work may not be pure *pro bono*, in the sense of making no charge at all, but it comes close.

On such a scale, the move was bold and unprecedented. Yet much *pro bono* work is going on and more is planned. There has been little publicity, but now the first detailed survey of what firms are up to has been carried out by Andrew Boon, the head of Westminster University's law school.

The tradition of providing free public services harks back, he says, to the Middle Ages. But the arrival of the legal aid scheme in 1949 partly relieved lawyers of their obligations. With legal aid under cost controls, solicitors are re-examining what they can do.

The survey looked at 100 firms, ranging from 229-partner outfits to 15-partner firms. Its findings will be published later this year in *Modern Law Review*. Five of the six firms that responded said they did *pro bono* work and gave details. It spanned giving legal advice at law centres and citizens' advice bureaux, handling cases referred by groups such as Liberty, handling Death Row appeals to the Privy Council and giving advice to organisations such as charities. Much of the work in law centres is done by trainees. But senior staff are also involved. One firm estimated it had devoted more than 5,000 hours in the



Ethical action: Gregory Peck represents Brock Peters in *To Kill A Mockingbird*

past five years to Death Row appeals.

Much was informal and records kept were patchy. But Mr Boon concludes that "some large firms in the UK have a small but possibly growing commitment" to *pro bono* work.

A smaller survey by Nottinghamshire Law Society throws up the same kind of picture. It found that among older solicitors, up to a tenth of their time is spent *pro bono*, although much of this work involves sitting on boards of charities, schools and clubs.

With the younger solicitors, the work is more likely to be free legal

advice given direct to clients.

Now, though, there are initiatives to formalise this *pro bono* patchwork. The Solicitors Pro Bono Group, a national committee representing eight firms and chaired by Tony Willis, a Clifford Chance partner, has been set up and is advertising for its first full-time director. About 100 replies have been received. "The idea," he says, "is to raise the profile of *pro bono* work among solicitors nationwide and turn this into an enduring framework for a coherent programme."

But what of the Law Society? The

idea of the Solicitors Pro Bono Group came from Andrew Phillips, solicitor and founder of the Citizenship Foundation. So far, the society has not taken a lead; in 1994 it rejected the idea of imposing a mandatory *pro bono* requirement on the ground that this would help the Government to legal aid. Mr Willis agrees that making the work mandatory would be a "recipe for disaster". But the Law Society has not promoted a culture of *pro bono* work as the American Bar Association has, partly because of the real struggles of many small firms it seeks to represent.

Tony Girling, the President, says: "It is clear from surveys and anecdotal evidence that a great deal of *pro bono* work by solicitors throughout England and Wales has gone unrecognised. We are a caring profession and do not have to be compelled to provide support to those in need." The way forward, he says, is to build on existing work and the society will give the *pro bono* group all possible practical support.

Letting people know what is being done so they can find help is now the key aim. There are other initiatives: the London Young Solicitors Group is setting up a register of solicitors in the capital willing to do *pro bono* work, so they can liaise with the Bar Pro Bono Unit (see *Law*, March 25). Kit Johnson, a student at the College of Law, is seeking to set up a scheme like the Bar's Free Representation Unit, in which law students can give people advice and help in tribunal cases. There are also groups such as the Environmental Law Foundation (0171-404 1030), a network of lawyers, scientists and others who give initial free advice and in some cases action, as well as groups such as Liberty and Justice, who help with human rights cases.

David Wilson, a partner with the City firm Simmons & Simmons and chairman of the City of London Law Society Pro Bono working party, says: "Historically, lawyers have been retiring about talking about doing work free. But industry is now leading the way about corporate community involvement and solicitors are slowly picking that up."

Adam Taylor suggests millennium-proof measures

How to beat the 2000 clock

Computer users across the globe are at last beginning to face up to the millennium timebomb — the possibility that computers will fail catastrophically in the year 2000 because they cannot cope with the date change. Estimates put the costs of rectifying the problem in the UK at £30 billion and worldwide at £400 billion.

Will the millennium bomb

result in a litigation explosion? Certainly, it raises a host of legal issues requiring urgent attention from specialist information technology lawyers.

The number one priority is to ensure millennium-compliance, but

users who do not take steps

now to identify and protect their legal rights may well forfeit their best chance of minimising the costs.

The legal position will vary from case to case: much will depend on the wording of contracts, as well as the age and type of system, but suppliers could be liable to compensate users for the costs of 2000 compliance or the consequences of 2000 failure.

Hardware and software suppliers are probably liable if it was reasonable for the user to expect the system to last beyond 2000. However, there may be contractual hurdles if, for instance, the supplier slipped in a clause vetoing or limiting his liability. Such cases will probably be subject to a "reasonableness" test whereby the courts will weigh up factors, including the parties' relative bargaining power. Generally, courts do not like such clauses.

Time limits apply, the most common being six years from when equipment was supplied (or possibly upgraded), even if the real loss is not suffered until

much later. It could be too late to wait until 2000. Users may need to stop the clock now, either by agreement or by issuing a holding writ.

Before spending vast sums

on the problem, those affected must check whether someone else is already obliged to do the work; for instance, under a maintenance contract. If users do not assert their rights, they may be penalised later for not mitigating their losses.



commercial contracts would apply, so companies should try to protect themselves when entering into contracts that could be affected by a millennium failure.

Conversely, they should check whether other businesses, such as potential trading partners or takeover targets, have compliance difficulties that could in turn rebound on them. Some companies are rumoured to be trying to dump subsidiaries with year 2000 problems.

As the millennium draws nearer, programmers will be in more and more demand. Companies should tighten employment contracts to deter poaching from their IT departments, bearing in mind that courts will strike down non-competition clauses if they are unreasonably wide.

Company directors could also find themselves being sued if they fail to exercise sufficient diligence in managing the company's affairs. They can no longer plead ignorance of the millennium problem and must not simply assume that the IT director will sort it out.

Computer users and the IT industry should work together to defuse the millennium bomb. Litigation should be a last resort.

• The author is a partner at Withers solicitors.

Now for woman power

FIVE WORKSHOPS on practical problems faced by women forging legal careers will form the basis of the 1997 Women Lawyer conference on April 12. Top-level panelists will head the sessions.

The conference, organised by the Bar and the Law Society and sponsored by *The Times*, will cover a range of topics, including "rainmaking" (networking for busi-

ness), maternity and paternity leave and flexible working.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the former Bar chairman, is the moderator in a session on "strategies for when things go wrong". Jenny Lindsay, an assistant solicitor, will de-

scribe how she took her former employer to an industrial tribunal, won £10,000 and survived — career-wise. She says: "If you are being treated unequally... it is important that you believe in yourself and act on that."

On the same panel will be Gill Andrew, an employment law specialist and Christopher Goodchild, an industrial tribunal chairman and an executive member of the European Association of Labour Court Judges.

Pamela Scribe, QC, will speak from the perspective of the professional conduct committee of the Bar Council. The main sessions will include a panel with Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and a keynote address from Roberta Cooper Ramo, immediate past president of the American Bar Association.

• Details: Blair Communications, 0171-722 9731

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LEGAL RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

Serving writ outside jurisdiction

Kuwait Oil Tanker Co SAK and Another v Al Bader and Others

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment March 24]

It was a precondition of leave to serve a writ upon a defendant outside the jurisdiction under Order 11, rule 10(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court that another defendant had already been served within or outside the jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the third defendant, Timothy John Stafford, against the order made on December 19, 1995 by Judge Diamond, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, that the plaintiffs, Kuwait Oil Tanker Co SAK and Sidor Shipping Incorporated, have retrospective leave under Order 2, rule 1 and Order 11, rule 10(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to serve a writ upon him outside the jurisdiction, that the purpose of the writ be deemed valid service; and that the third defendant's summons to set aside leave to serve on the jurisdiction, granted by Mr Justice Crosswell, be dismissed.

In a respondents' notice, the plaintiffs sought to uphold the judge's order on the additional ground that the court had jurisdiction under Order 11, rule 10(c) to give leave to serve outside the jurisdiction even though when the application was made, no other defendant had yet been served.

Order 11, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides: "(i) service out of the jurisdiction is permissible with the leave of the court if in the action begun by the writ — (c) the claim is brought against a person duly served within or out of the jurisdiction is a necessary or proper party thereto."

Winding-up petition inappropriate

In re Amadeus Trading Ltd

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 26]

Where there was a complex raft of disputed facts and allegations on both sides which cried out for cross-examination, it was inappropriate for a claimant to resort to a petition to wind up a company which was his adversary.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Companies Court of the Chancery Division in dismissing a petition presented on July 22, 1996 by Moscow Bank of the Savings of the Russian Federation, for the winding-up of Amadeus Trading Ltd.

Section 30 of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882 provides:

"(2) Every holder of a bill is prima facie assumed to be a holder in due course; but if in an action for a bill it is admitted that it is affected with fraud, duress or force, or fear, or illegality, the burden of proof is shifted, and until the holder proves that, subsequent to the alleged fraud or illegality, value has in good faith been given to the bill."

The judge had previously refused an application by the petitioner for leave to cross-examine Mr Ilya Kletsik, the relevant director of Amadeus, on an affidavit sworn by him on August 29, 1996.

Mr Robin Knowles for the petitioner: Mr Nicholas Strauss,

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CHANGING TIMES

Insurers must pay compensation

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co and Others v Youell and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Munro

[Judgment March 26]

Insurance cover for sums the assured became liable "to pay as damages to third parties howsoever arising" was to include sums paid by the operators of luxury cruise ships to passengers whose holiday cruises had had to be abandoned.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserving judgments dismissing an interlocutory appeal by underwriters, Mr John R. L. Youell being the representative underwriter, from Mr Justice Langley's order on February 15, 1996, giving summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court in favour of P & O Steam Navigation Co.

Mr V. V. Veeder, QC and Mr Steven Berry for the underwriters; Mr Nicholas Hamblen for P & O.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that P & O operated luxury cruise ships. Its brochure proclaimed the high quality and relaxing nature of the cruises, urging its readers to let the cruise ships "do the moving".

The judge held that Order 11, rule 10(c) required a defendant to be served before leave could be granted to serve another defendant outside the jurisdiction, but that he had power retroactively to validate the service to be given on the ground that when the writ was given under Order 11, rule 10(c) no other defendant had been served.

The judge held that Order 11, rule 10(c) was the relevant one for present purposes.

Before 1983, Order 11, rule 10(c) read: "... service ... out of the jurisdiction is permissible with the leave of the court ... if the action begun by the writ ... is brought against a person duly served within or out of the jurisdiction, a necessary or proper party thereto."

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that it was plain from the wording of the rules that a defendant had to have been served within or out of the jurisdiction before leave could be given to serve outside the jurisdiction. That was a condition of the service being granted.

In those circumstances the judge could not be criticised in treating as valid service of the writ upon the third defendant.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that it was

necessary to consider the way that the judge exercised his discretion under Order 11, rule 1, required one defendant to be served within the jurisdiction before there could be an application for leave to serve another defendant outside the jurisdiction; see *Yorkshire Tannery v Eglington Chemical* [1984] 54 L.J. Ch. 81; *Collins v North British and Mercantile Insurance Co* [1984] 3 Ch. 228 and *Tassell v Hallen* [1992] 1 QB 321.

Since 1983, Order 11, rule 4 provided: "(i) An application for the grant of leave under rule 10(c) must be supported by an affidavit stating — (a) where the application is made under rule 10(c), the grounds for the defendant's belief that there is between the plaintiff and the person on whom a writ has been served a real issue which the plaintiff may reasonably ask the court to try."

It was plain from the wording of the rules that a defendant had to have been served within or out of the jurisdiction before leave could be given to serve another defendant outside the jurisdiction.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON, giving judgment on the submissions relating to the respondents' notice, said that on February 21, 1994 Mr Justice Crosswell, inter alia, granted the intended plaintiffs' leave to serve the third defendant outside the jurisdiction.

Later the same day the first defendant was served in this country. On or about July 29, 1994 the third defendant was served in Australia. He applied for leave to serve to be given on the ground that when the writ was given under Order 11, rule 10(c) no other defendant had been served.

The judge held that Order 11, rule 4 required a defendant to be served before leave could be granted to serve another defendant outside the jurisdiction, but that he had power retroactively to validate the service to be given on the ground that when the writ was given under Order 11, rule 10(c) no other defendant had been served.

The judge held that Order 11, rule 10(c) required a defendant to be served before leave could be granted to serve another defendant outside the jurisdiction, but that he had power retroactively to validate the service to be given on the ground that when the writ was given under Order 11, rule 10(c) no other defendant had been served.

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LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that it was

Jurisdiction over foreign charity

Gandhi Mission and Others v Kamalaksha DAS Brahmacarya

Before Mr David Oliver, QC

[Judgment March 14]

A charitable institution which had been established in a foreign jurisdiction but which operated wholly or in part in this country, was a charity for the purposes of section 33(2) (8) and (11) of the Charities Act 1993 and the court could entertain charitable proceedings in respect of that institution only if the consent of the Charity Commissioners had been sought.

Mr David Oliver, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment in which he ordered, inter alia, that the Attorney-General should be added as a party to the proceedings and that the plaintiffs have leave pursuant to section 33(5) of the Charities Act 1993 to take and continue his Lordship very probably.

Documents had been produced in evidence, bearing dates other than those of their admitted execution, but, apparently with the knowledge of the petitioner.

His Lordship had been left with the impression that Mr Kletsik might not have told the whole truth, but neither had the petitioner, the principal defendant on whose side he had, seemed, recently left his service under a cloud.

His Lordship had been persuaded, on the totality of the affidavit evidence, that there was here a triable issue, such as would entitle a defendant to resist a summons under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court see *Powszczynski v Bank Zwiazkowy W Polsce v Parus* [1992] 2 KB 353. Accordingly, the petition was dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Cawdry Kaye, Freman & Taylor, Hampstead.

Mr Robin Knowles for the petitioner: Mr Nicholas Strauss,

Deciding whether operation is an undertaking for transfer

Bets and Others v Brinell Helicopters Ltd trading as British International Helicopters and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir Roger Parker

[Judgment March 26]

In deciding whether an operation was an undertaking for the purposes of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (SI 1991 No 1764), the court had to look beyond the activity entrusted to it. In most cases there would be land, buildings, plant, staff and order books all contributing to the undertaking.

At Norwich, KLM used different helicopters and had fire service, security and other services which at Brinell's Brinell provided for themselves.

Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr Andrew Clarke for KLM; Mr James Goudie QC and Mr Timothy Pitt-Fayre for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that it was the plaintiffs' contention before the trial judge that when Brinell's contract began there was a transfer of undertaking for the purposes of the 1991 Regulations and in consequence they were each entitled to a declaration that as from July 1, 1995 by operation of law they became employees of KLM.

Prior to June 30, 1995 Brinell

had not been an economic entity, or an undertaking, for the purposes of the regulations.

The legislation

The 1991 Regulations were made by the secretary of state under section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972 to give effect to Council Directive 77/187/EEC (OJ 1975 L61).

The overall purpose of the directive was to safeguard the rights of employees. The relevant regulations were 2, 3, 5 and 8.

The general effect of the regulations was that where company A sold its business to company B two things happened: first, A's employees by operation of law became B's; second, any dismissal of an employee by company B was deemed unfair if it was the reason or principal reason for his dismissal.

The employees could seek relief before an industrial tribunal.

Mr Carr's primary submission was that the present situation was not one to which the regulations applied.

There was no sale of a business by Brinell to KLM. Brinell acquired no assets previously belonging to Brinell unless, as Mr Goudie contended, the right to land on Shell oil rigs and to use their facilities could be regarded as an

undertaking by the world and its wonders unroll around you while you unwind". It promised to "turn a holiday into an unforgettable experience".

For passengers on three cruises in 1991 that last promise was indeed fulfilled, but not for the reasons earlier mentioned.

Unhappily during that cruise season of P & O's ships and three cruises had had to be abandoned with the passengers on board.

Not surprisingly, P & O received a large number of complaints and passenger claims. To avoid a multiplicity of separate claims and to preserve its good name P & O quickly negotiated and agreed compensation packages which were agreed to be in full and final settlement of any passenger claims.

The underwriters took the point that the wording of the P & O cover was not apt to cover the sums paid out in respect of the passenger claims. So far as material the insurance was "... to pay to sum or sum which the assured shall become legally liable whether contractually or otherwise however to pay as damages to third parties however arising and the cost of such damage."

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Pressac Holdings, SCI Entertainment. **Finals:** Bourne End Properties, Gaskell, Hit Entertainment, Inch Kenneth Kajong Rubber, Martin Currie Pacific, Premiere Group, Reunion Mining, Telemetrix.

Economic statistics: Royal Bank of Scotland oil report; BBA end-February monthly mortgage lending; March purchasing managers' index.

TOMORROW

Interims: UDO Holdings. **Finals:** Camas, Densitron International, Headlam Group, Hewden-Stuart, Johnston Press, La Senza, Princedale Group, Radamec Group, Rugby Estates, Senior Engineering, Ultra Electronics, Walker Greenbank, Yule Catto.

Economic statistics: February final M4 money supply; February net new consumer credit; March official reserves; March provisional MO money supply.

THURSDAY

Interims: China Investment & Development, Wesco Group. **Finals:** Laird Group, Rugby Estates, Senior Engineering, United Assurance

FRIDAY

Interims: None scheduled. **Finals:** AFA Systems. **Economic statistics:** Confederation of British Industry March distributive trades survey.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Mail on Sunday: Buy: Premier Oil, Self-Burman Castrol. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy: MFT, Scottish Radio Holdings, Rebus, Kwik Save. **The Sunday Times:** Buy: Alfred McAlpine, Bourne End, Vickers, Rugby Estates. **The Observer:** Buy: Booker, J. Sainsbury. **Sunday Business:** Buy: Bath Press, BSM, Brunner Mond.

Further decline of French trade on horizon for Laird

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



John Gardiner, chairman of Laird, has had to contend with flat continental markets

mented that trading conditions had been difficult and that sales growth in the reprographics market had been slower than expected. The acquisition of Sarksprint, UDO's largest competitor in the lucrative London market, should have helped its position. Credit Lyonnais Laing predicts similar pre-tax profits of £3 million for the six months to the end of January, for earnings of 6.7p against 6.8p last time. The broker looks for an improvement in the dividend to 7.3p from 6.8p.

UDO HOLDINGS: When the group reported full-year results in November it com-

HEADLAM GROUP: A good result from floor-coverings should help to lift pre-tax profits for the year to the end of December to £11.5 million from £7.7 million, says Antony Legge at Beeson Gregory, the broker.

The analyst pointed out that the major event of last year was the purchase of Gradus Group in December. This will have had no effect in 1996, but should be earnings-enhancing in the current year.

The analyst predicts an increase in the dividend from

4.8p to 5.8p from earnings up from 2.2p to 15.4p.

HEWDEN STUART: Full-year figures tomorrow are expected to show a decline in pre-tax profits from £36.3 million to £29.5 million. Mark Howson, of Beeson Gregory, looks for second-half pre-tax profits of £14.4 million, helped by some improvement in hire rates during the period.

Overall hire rates are believed to have ended the year down around 6 per cent, with rates in unmanned and gener-

al hire being the prime culprit for the weakness. Mobile cranes remain soft despite 85 per cent utilisation, although access and tower cranes have been strong.

NatWest Securities points out that for every 1% increase in turnover profits at Hewden Stuart grow 50p.

JOHNSTON PRESS: Mr Legge marginally upgraded his forecast for the year to the end of December because of better than expected margin improvement at the Empag regional newspapers it bought last year.

He is now looking for pre-tax profits of £22.4 million against £16.8 million with earnings up from 7.9p to 9.6p. He has pencilled in a 2.25p payout compared with 2.1p last time.

RUGBY ESTATES: BWZ expects pre-tax profits of £2.1 million against £1.1 million for the year to the end of December. Earnings a share are expected to grow from 4p to 7.7p, with the dividend increasing from 2.18p to 2.4p.

SENIOR ENGINEERING: BWZ predicts a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £22.1 million to £3.7 million in the year to the end of December because of the £29.3 million write-off incurred when Senior sold its thermal engineering business to a management buyout. Bid rumours persist at the group.

UNITED ASSURANCE: This is the first full set of figures to be reported since the merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £210 million compared with £163.1 million, with the benefits already coming through from cost reductions estimated at £35 million a year.

Earnings are set to rise 31 per cent from 34.5p to 45.1p, while a first-time payment of 18p is forecast.

American payroll data awaited as interest rate clue

Nervous financial markets, spooked last week by the US Federal Reserve's quarter percentage point interest rate rise and looking for clues to the next likely move, will be given some useful data to chew on in the next few days.

The most widely watched data release of them all, US payrolls, comes on Friday. It is expected to show that US jobs growth slowed to between 160,000 and 205,000 in March after the 247,000 of January and 339,000 in February. This would leave the unemployment rate at, or marginally below, the 5.3 per cent of February. Analysts do not believe that this will move the US any closer to its next change in interest rates.

Another key US indicator, the National Association of Purchasing Managers' March report, is due out today. HSBC James Capel is predicting that the NAPM index will come in at 53, and the market consensus, according to MMS International, is 53.5.

This sort of level, close to February's 53.1, would indicate a steady expansion in manufacturing activity.

Britain's equivalent, the Purchasing Managers' Index for March, also comes out today. The PMI fell to 53.5 in February, from 53.9. This still shows expansion in manufacturing, while prices showed their largest drop since July 1996. Further benign data could help to cool speculation about interest rate rises after the May 1 general election.

On Thursday, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply will publish the first PMI for Britain's services sector, covering all the industry's sectors apart from retail and wholesale. It is designed to flesh out the British economic data set, which is heavily skewed towards manufacturing, in spite of its dwindling role in the economy.

The Confederation of British Industry will publish its distributive trades survey for March on Friday. It has fallen short of expectations for several months, and economists are predicting little improvement in sentiment this time.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	20.22	18.72
Belgium Fr	59.30	55.00
Canada \$	2.343	2.183
Cyprus Cyp	0.850	0.795
Denmark Kr	10.99	10.19
Finland Mkr	8.61	7.95
France Fr	9.22	8.22
Germany Dm	1.450	1.424
Hong Kong \$	13.25	12.26
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.78	5.11
Italy Lira	267.9	267.9
Japan Yen	215.40	190.40
Korea Wons	1,095	993
Netherlands Gld	3.223	2.993
New Zealand \$	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	11.38	10.58
Portugal Esc	287.00	268.50
S Africa Rdc	7.79	6.99
Spain Pta	243.00	226.00
Sweden Kr	13.10	12.18
Switzerland Fr	1.50	1.22
Turkey Lira	213,900	199,900
USA \$	1.727	1.597

Bank of England official close (4pm)

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

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1.6303 (+0.0265)

German mark
2.7345 (+0.0348)

Exchange index
98.0 (+1.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2851.4 (+28.7)

FTSE 100
4312.9 (+58.1)

New York Dow Jones
6740.59 (-64.2)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18210.42 (-422.74)

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ADDITIONAL PERSONS TO BE COVERED

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ADULT STATUS (IF EITHER ADULT IS OVER 60)

DATE OF BIRTH

NO. OF CHILDREN UNDER 18

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References

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R2 Hutchinson History Library 39.99 24.95

R3 Hutchinson Science Library 39.99 24.95

R4 Penguin Hutchinson Reference Library 39.99 24.95

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Tesco to offer credit card and seek bank licence



By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE, the new banking operation established by Tesco and Royal Bank of Scotland, is set to launch its first major product, the Tesco credit card, in July and is likely to seek a full banking licence in the next few months.

Derek Sach, named yesterday by Tesco and RBS as chief executive of the joint venture, said that negotiations are under way with the main operators in the credit card field to find a partner. Other products will follow in quick succession. "Our aim is to develop Tesco Personal Finance into a mean-

ingful business very quickly, providing a full range of personal finance services and products," he said.

Own-brand Tesco cash machines will begin to appear in stores this year and special areas set aside for personal finance will be tested in the next few months and extended throughout the chain in 1998. The banking operation employs 40 people, a number that will rise to around 1,000 next year.

Mr Sach, 48, has an unusual background for the retail banking job. He was formerly managing director of 3i, the venture capital group, and in 1992 joined Royal Bank of Scotland, where he ran the risk management

and corporate recovery operations. Rowley Ager, 3i's Tesco's company secretary, is to be chairman of the new venture.

Ahead of the credit card launch, Tesco, whose chairman is Lord MacLaurin, is to add new features to its Clubcard Plus loyalty card scheme. Cardholders, who can now use their cards only in Tesco stores, are likely to be able to use them elsewhere and in some automatic teller machines. Insurance and savings products, made available through links with Scottish Widows and Direct Line, will follow.

Tesco Personal Finance, in which both sides are to invest an initial £20

million to £25 million, will at first operate under the RBS banking licence. A separate licence is likely to be sought from the Bank of England later this year so that it can take decisions and act as a separate bank.

Supermarkets, looking for ways of increasing their share in the highly competitive grocery market, have been stampeding into retail banking. Sainsbury's Bank, a joint venture between J Sainsbury and Bank of Scotland, is already up and running while Safeway has formed an alliance with Abbey National and Wm Morrison with the Midland. Asda has so far not gone into banking.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Estate agents predict rise in house prices

THE traditional spring surge of new properties coming on to the market has begun early this year, according to a survey by the Birmingham Midshires Building Society to be published today. The Birmingham Midshires/ICM Housing Monitor shows four out of five UK estate agents are now confident that the market is gathering pace and they expect prices to rise 6 per cent this year. They say that house prices have steadied over the past six months, but are still 10 per cent higher than a year ago. According to the Nationwide Building Society price index for March, published last week, prices were up 9.6 per cent over the year and 1.6 per cent in the month, the biggest monthly rise in two years. The Halifax is due to publish its own findings for March today.

According to Birmingham Midshires, the biggest price rises are expected in London, at 10.7 per cent and the South East, 7.8 per cent. In Scotland, a rise of just 2.52 per cent is forecast. Demand is heaviest for three and four-bedroom homes, but estate agents are finding one-bedroom properties difficult to sell, with first-time buyers going straight on to two and three-bedroom properties. In London, seven out of ten estate agents said gazing has become a problem.

Diamond prospect

RTZ and De Beers may be invited to join local mining companies to exploit the giant Lomonosov diamond field near Arkhangelsk in northern Russia, which is estimated to be worth as much as \$12 billion. Vitaly Fortygin, general manager of Seversalmaz, which owns the licence for the field, said he was considering working with foreign partners. This is despite opposition to foreign involvement from the Russian Parliament.

Salehurst seeks £2m

SALEHURST, the specialist paper supplier, yesterday said that it intended to raise £2 million through a placing on the stock market. The company, which is expected to be valued at between £15 million and £18 million, will use some of the money to develop its stock management software package. About £2.5 million of existing shares will be sold in the placing, leaving Michael Jackson, the group's founder and chief executive, with about 60 per cent of the company's equity.

p

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said: "This survey is overwhelming evidence that the business community recognises the need for Britain to play a constructive role in Europe and recognises also the danger to prosperity and jobs if we were to leave the European Union. It shows the dangers to which Tory divisions on Europe expose Britain - risking 3.5 million jobs."

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Pets are rescued, viewers become addicted

If you asked the public for the most addictive new programme on telly in the past six months, there is little doubt that Channel 4's *Pet Rescue* would be pretty high on the list, I know, I know. But it's a show guaranteed to warm all four chambers of the heart at once. Simply, the RSPCA asks the public to adopt rescued animals, the public phones up (150 a minute), the pets are placed with nice, suitable people, and ho hum, everyone is happy. Sometimes the fate of a rescued animal is dicey, and the nation waits white-knuckled (it's on every night) to learn the outcome. People can become addicted after only a couple of days' exposure to *Pet Rescue*. Some American friends recently insisted — only a week after arrival — that we must all get back from an outing by 5.30pm. Why? Because they were on tenterhooks about a homeless goat.

Easter Monday brought us

Pet Rescue Easter Special (Channel 4), a good opportunity to catch up on some past stories, witness an appeal on behalf of rabbits, and experience the programme's legendarily mesmeric appeal. And it worked. After only a few minutes of high-pressure pretty-bunny pictures I was dithering near the phone with my ears wagging and my nose doing that twitching involuntary. But is it just compassion that makes people phone up? Doesn't the television fame of the needy animal add to its attraction? You can't help wondering. Evidently 400 people once phoned in for "Helen the Rabbit" — an insatiable, surely. Take away her celebrity, and Helen (pinc name) is just a gerbil, after all.

This is why the rabbit appeal was interesting — because it was a general appeal on behalf of 500 rabbits in animal rescue centres around the country. A few were personalised, of course — Cotton-

tail (abandoned beside a road); Dylan (horribly neglected). But the idea on this occasion, is that the public phones up and gives a fine retirement home to *any old rabbit*. Will they? Damn, now I must watch the next series (starting next week) just to find out. Meanwhile, it is interesting to imagine the previous dastardly owners of Dylan and Cotton tail watching *Pet Rescue* themselves. Overcome with excitement, they phone their friends. "See that rabbit on the telly? I knew him before he was famous."

Since I never tire of telling people that Stephen Fry, Andrew Davies and Anthony Minghella used to write for me (Anthony Minghella still owes me £1), I can attest that "I knew him before he was famous" is a slightly sad distinction. I mean, I don't know them now, do I? But fame is such an interesting subject, any angle is worth exploring. Imagine

REVIEW

Lynne Truss



the lady blacksmith interviewed 25 years ago by a youthful Jeremy Paxman. Doesn't she sometimes feel his success reflects on her? "I met him, you know. I played my part," she tells her family every night at 10.30pm, pointing with a red-hot hammer. And theyawn and say "Yeah, yeah."

Last night's *Before They Were Famous* (BBC1) was not about the little people left behind, however.

Shame. Instead, it was just a chance to laugh and gawp at Emma Thompson in a revue-sketch bikini, or Joanna Lumley advertising cashmere. Linked by Angus Deayton (formerly of the Crunchy Nut Cornflakes commercials) it was supposedly "button-clenchingly embarrassing" for the luminaries concerned, but curiously, there was never any doubt that it wasn't Anna Ford in Joan Baez guise; Naomi Campbell as a puissant dancer; Susan Sarandon advertising Magic Lady Panties — all were shown eagerly pursuing limelight careers that of course turned out exactly as they hoped.

It was still a hoot, though. Comedy being based on either recognition or surprise. *Before They Were Famous* scored with both — Ben Kingsley in *Coronation Street*, Nick Hancock in the worst beer commercials in the world. Strictly speaking, however, most of these people were *a bit*

famous already, otherwise they wouldn't have been on the telly at all. George Michael may now regret being Wham! on *Top of the Pops*, for example, but he was certainly famous for it at the time.

Back on Channel 4, Rawbides traced a cattle drive across western Spain, rather pointlessly but to great visual effect. If you are attracted to dust, sun, horses, mowing and cowboys, it was a real treat. Two female Oxford undergraduates joined the cowboys, their presence adding the promise of a bit of drama, but when the drama failed to materialise, it didn't matter much. To jolly things along, I sang *Mule Train* and hit my head with a tray for the whiplash hits. It really did not reverse the effect, either.

What an unfortunate way to start a new channel. If you were designing Channel 5 aversion therapy, this was precisely how you'd go about it.

that on the south coast we have a reception problem. OK, Channel 5 is unavailable through transmitters because of the proximity to France (don't ask). But for some reason, my cable supplier has turned it all into *Max Headroom*, and *something must be done*.

Naturally, I assumed at first that the juddery picture was a fashion statement just taken beyond a joke. "Got the message, thanks!" I hoisted indulgently (with a headache) after the first hour on Sunday night. "Very modern! Very Def II! Sure to entertain the younger viewer!" However, by the time I'd watched *The Jack Doherty Show* my eyeballs were falling out and I was dry-retching. Hitting my head with a tea-tray did not reverse the effect, either. What an unfortunate way to start a new channel. If you were designing Channel 5 aversion therapy, this was precisely how you'd go about it.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (77371)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (93130)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (8317823)
9.20 Style Challenge (3645858)
9.45 Kilroy (273536)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (91791)
11.00 News (T) (4916371)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (9459062)
11.35 Change That (880536)
12.00 News (T) and weather (4690739)
12.05pm Call My Bluff! New series of the word game hosted by Bob Holness (5242468)
12.35 Good Living (9073739)
1.00 News (T) and weather (6291739)
1.35 Regional News (50611642)
1.45 The Weather Show (39194130)
1.50 Neighbours (T) (22047826)
2.10 <i>Quincy</i> The pathologist conducts an autopsy on a City Hall secretary (7937245)
3.00 As Time Goes By (T) (2197)
3.30 Playdays (638849) 3.50 <i>Pingu</i> (608807) 3.55 <i>Hubub</i> (648826) 4.10 <i>Prince of Atlantis</i> (9478739) 4.35 <i>Pirates</i> (7700739)
5.00 <i>Newround</i> (T) (5451888)
5.10 <i>The Lowdown</i> The first in a new series of the young people's documentary series infiltrates Wimbeldon's training for bellboys and girls (7037389)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (718555)
6.00 News (T) and weather (36)
6.30 <i>Newround</i> Southeast (38)
7.00 <i>Holiday</i> A cruise around the coast of Thailand, the Italian Riviera, the Greek island of Lesvos, Deauville and a Herefordshire country house (T) (4178)
7.30 <i>999 Lifesavers</i> Michael Buerk and Juliet Morris introduce further heroic tales including a dog-handler's horrific experience with an angry swarm of wasps, a doctor's risky, miracle cure to help a young boy after a ten-minute underwater ordeal and how a pensioners day out came to an abrupt end in a swimming pool (T) (72)
8.00 <i>EastEnders</i> April Fool's Day provides Nigel with plenty to laugh about (T) (8282)
8.30 <i>Children's Hospital</i> An update on the progress of cerebral palsy sufferers Nadia and Louise (T) (2333)
9.00 News (T) and weather (5517)
10.00 <i>One Foot in the Grave</i> Victor receives an unlikely job offer (T) (8372)
10.30 <i>Rough Justice</i> Murder at the Studio Investigation into the 1989 murder of 19-year-old Penny Laing (T) (111265)
11.15 <i>Truly Madly Deeply</i> (1991) with Juliet Stevenson and Alan Rickman. A young woman is so distraught when her musician lover dies that she comes back as a ghost, to keep her company. Directed by Anthony Minghella (965555)
12.55am <i>The Next Voice You Hear</i> (b/w, 1950) with James Whitmore and Nancy Davis. God's announcement over the radio has a profound effect on a small American town. Directed by William Wellman (4890550)
2.15 Weather (3539397)

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BBC2
6.00am Open University: Venice and Antwerp — the Cities Compared (2620449) 6.25 <i>Berthe Morisot: An Interview with Kathleen Adler</i> (2632284)
6.55 What Is Music? (7.15) See Hear
7.15 Life of Toys (2909179) 7.45 The Raccoons (5695772) 8.10 <i>Wacky Races</i> (3491246) 8.35 <i>Young People's Specials</i> (3510688) 9.05 <i>Activ 8</i> (729997) 9.35 Sweet Valley High (8970888) 10.00 <i>Furnibabies</i> (7725429) 10.10 <i>Telebabies</i> (1793536) 10.35 <i>Babar</i> (3065189) 11.00 <i>The Young Indiana Jones Chronicle</i> (12401)
12.30pm <i>Working Lunch</i> (40555) 1.00 <i>Secret Life of Toys</i> (8929504)
1.15 <i>The Big Circus</i> (1959) with Victor Mature, Red Buttons, Rhonda Fleming and Vincent Price. A bankrupt circus owner struggles to get his show back on the road. Directed by Joseph Newman (26370975)

3.00 News (T) and weather (7987536) 3.05 *The Natural World* (T) (7185737) 3.35 *News* (T) and weather (6584820) 4.00 *Blockbusters* (T) 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (3) 5.00 *Esther* (T) (5284) 5.30 *Today's the Day* (55)

6.00 *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* Will makes a good impression on Lisa's father (T) (861604)

6.25 *Heartbreak High* A baby is discovered on the warehouse doorstep (T) (7851787)

7.10 *The O Zone* (T) (256926)

7.30 *From the Edge* (T) (2)

8.00 *The House Detectives*: 40 Morning High Street. Legends of witches and smugglers surround two houses in Essex (1468)

8.30 *Food and Drink* Two of Britain's award-winning young chefs reveal what it takes to be the best and Jilly Goolden and Oz Clarke taste New Zealand wine (T) (9325)

9.00 *Have I Got Old News* for You with Alan Davies and Jennifer Paterson (T) (6517) **WALES:** 9.00-9.30 *Voices* (171081)



Karen hillbillys (9.30pm)

HTV
6.00am GMTV (5914284)
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3853807)
9.55 Regional News (T) (2975954)
10.00 <i>The Time, the Place</i> (82984)
10.30 This Morning (T) (6133555)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (4689623)
12.30 News (T) (9069536)
12.55 Shortland Street (T) (9077555) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (84439130) 1.50 Afternoon Live (5631820) 2.20 <i>Vanessa</i> (T) (4091197) 2.50 <i>Afternoon Live</i> (5242826)

3.20 News (T) (794826)

3.25 Regional News (T) (7993197)

3.30 Potomac Park (T) (6430807) 3.40 *Wizadra* (T) (9061092) 3.50 *Brimble's Bucket* (T) (5067249) 4.00 *Scobie Do* (T) (5624240) 4.15 *Hey Arnold!* (T) (842178) 4.40 *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* (T) (8515178)

5.10 *Banglad Cafe* (T) (826807)

5.40 *News* (T) and weather (651343)

6.00 *Home and Away* (T) (858130)

6.25 HTV Weather (774739)

6.30 HTV News (T) (4)

7.00 *Emmerdale* The Dingles finally come face to face with Mr Big and Dee is found out by the immigration authorities (T) (4401)

8.00 *The Bill* After a series of graffiti attacks, a likely suspect protests his innocence. Boyden and Page discover the true culprit is making a bid for self-expression (T) (8994)

8.30 *Loved by You* Kate gets promoted and throws a house party to celebrate, but a churlish Michael, whose documentary has been turned down by the BBC, finds it hard to share in her happiness (T) (7401)

9.00 *Peak Practice* When Clare endangers one of David's older patients, it is time for him to face facts concerning his wife's erratic behaviour. With Yolande Vazquez and Adrian Lukis (T) (3913)

10.00 *News* (T) and weather (16468)

10.30 Regional News (T) (829975)

10.40 *Blade Runner: The Director's Cut* (1991) starring Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer and Sean Young. Film noir meets science fiction when a 21st-century former-cop is assigned to track down a gang of replicants. Directed by Ridley Scott (T) (36545284)

12.45 *Dating the Enemy* (279840)

1.45 *Stand and Deliver* (8451314)

2.50 *The Chart Show* (T) (4110269)

3.45 *Phenomena* (2896943)

3.50 *Football Extra* (5031918)

4.30 *The Time, the Place* (T) (88956)

5.00 *Heircourt* (T) (33918)

5.30 *News* (288693)

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